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JUST A STEP AWAY FROM FUNK'S CROWN

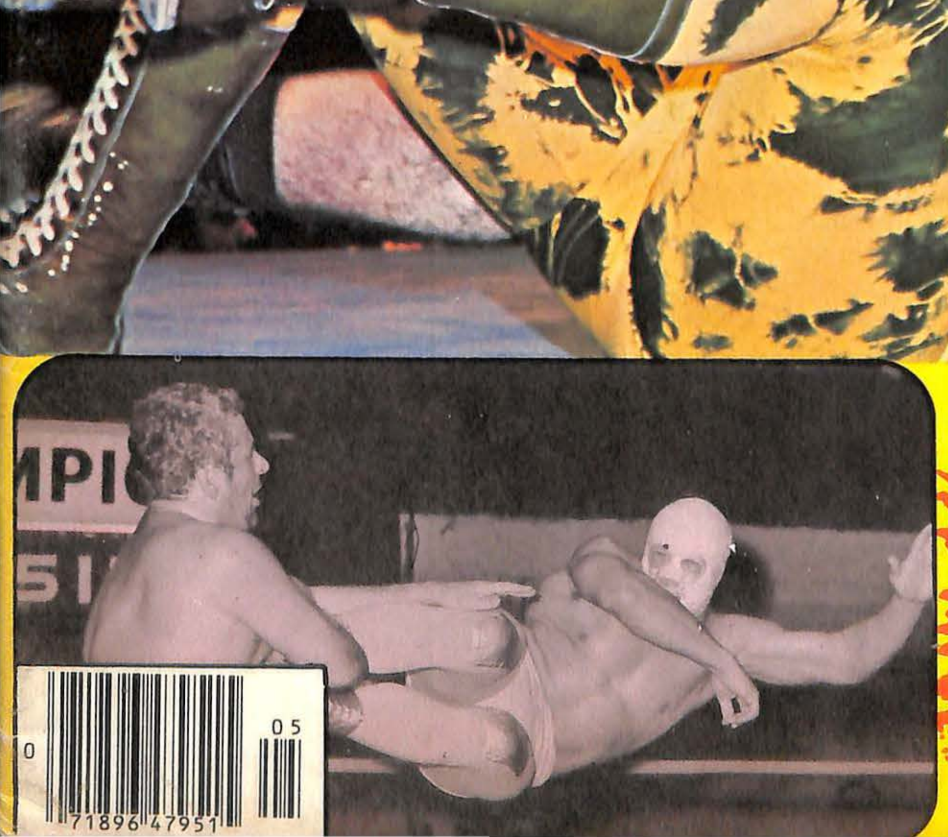
VICTORY SPORTS SERIES

THE WRESTLER

47951 MAY 1976 $1.00

THE Wrestler

Superstar Graham Learns...
BRUNO IS STILL THE BEST!



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CHEST –
Everyone notices a massive chest that looks like its bursting through a shirt. A big chest has always been the sign of a powerful man. How big do you want your chest to be — 47, 48, 50 inches or more?

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THE Wrestler

COVER PHOTOS BY BILL APTER & THEO EHRET

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Fitness is my business

I RECOMMEND BULLWORKER® BECAUSE IT'S FAST, IT'S EASY AND IT REALLY WORKS!

Aside from keeping many of the stars you see in the movies and on television in top shape, Mike Fretault, at 40, is still one of the most sought-after stunt men in the business.

Most men know they're not getting enough exercise to keep their bodies in shape.

Twenty years as a fitness coach has taught me one important fact: most men will not stick with a training program long enough for it to do them any good, unless the training is fast, easy and shows results right away.

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—it's fast: each exercise takes only 7 seconds and the complete workout can be done in about five minutes

—it's easy: any man between 15 and 65 in good general health can perform the full program without getting tired

—you see your results right from the very first day on the built-in Powermeter gauge. After two to three weeks of regular training, most men can expect to measure an extra inch or two of muscle on their shoulders, chest and biceps—and an inch or two less flab around the middle.

And that's just the start: there are specialized exercises for building-up or trimming-down any part of your body you want to. What's more since Bullworker training is progressive, you perform better each time. Yet the training always seems easy since with every workout your strength increases by about 1%—that's an increase of up to 50% in just three months, and I've seen many men go on to double and even triple their strength. For my money, Bullworker is the most advanced home trainer on the market. I use it and recommend it to any man who wants to get back in top shape fast.

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OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BRUNO SAMMARTINO

1—ERNIE LADD
2—SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM
3—IVAN KOLOFF
4—IVAN PUTSKI
5—BOBO BRAZIL
6—SCANDOR AKBAR
7—LOUIS CYR
8—BUGSY MCGRAW
9—BILLY WHITE WOLF
10—DOMINIC DENUCCI

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

1—VERNE GAGNE
2—LARRY HENNIG
3—BILLY ROBINSON
4—JOE LEDUC
5—OX BAKER
6—PAMPERO FIRPO
7—BARON VON RASCHKE
8—BOBBY DUNCUM
9—GREG GAGNE
10—JIM BRUNZELL

MOST POPULAR

1—IVAN PUTSKI
2—BRUNO SAMMARTINO
3—DUSTY RHODES
4—MIL MASCARAS
5—ANDRE THE GIANT
6—MARK LEWIN
7—CHIEF JAY STRONGBOW
8—MR. WRESTLING II
9—MIGHTY IGOR
10—PAUL JONES

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: TERRY FUNK

1—JACK BRISCO
2—SHOHEI BABA
3—PAUL JONES
4—DORY FUNK JR.
5—THE SHEIK
6—HARLEY RACE
7—DUSTY RHODES
8—MR. WRESTLING II
9—JERRY LAWLER
10—CHAVO GUERRERO

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ANDERSON BROTHERS
2—TONY PARISI & LOUIS CERDAN
3—BRUISER & CRUSHER
4—BILLY GRAHAM & IVAN KOLOFF
5—THE VALIANT BROTHERS
6—THE MONGOLS
7—GOLIATH & BLACK GORDMAN
8—PAT PATTERSON & PEDRO MORALES
9—BRUTE BERNARD & NICOALI VOLKOFF
10--JACK & JERRY BRISCO

WOMEN

CHAMPION: FABULOUS MOOLAH

1—SUSAN GREEN
2—VICKI WILLIAMS
3—JOYCE GRABLE
4—DONNA CHRISTENELLO
5—SUSAN SEXTON
6—KITTY ADAMS
7—BELLE STARR
8—SHEILA SHEPPARD
9—DOTTY DOWNS
10—LEILANA KAI

ERNIE LADD

OX BAKER

DORY FUNK JR.

SUSAN GREEN

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Turn Belly Fat into a Rock-Hard Lean Stomach

...**in 7 short minutes** a day with the "miracle" of SYNOMETRICS...the fantastic new discovery for **speed shaping** away ugly, embarrassing fat and flab...to reveal a brand new rock-hard, lean, trim, handsome body!

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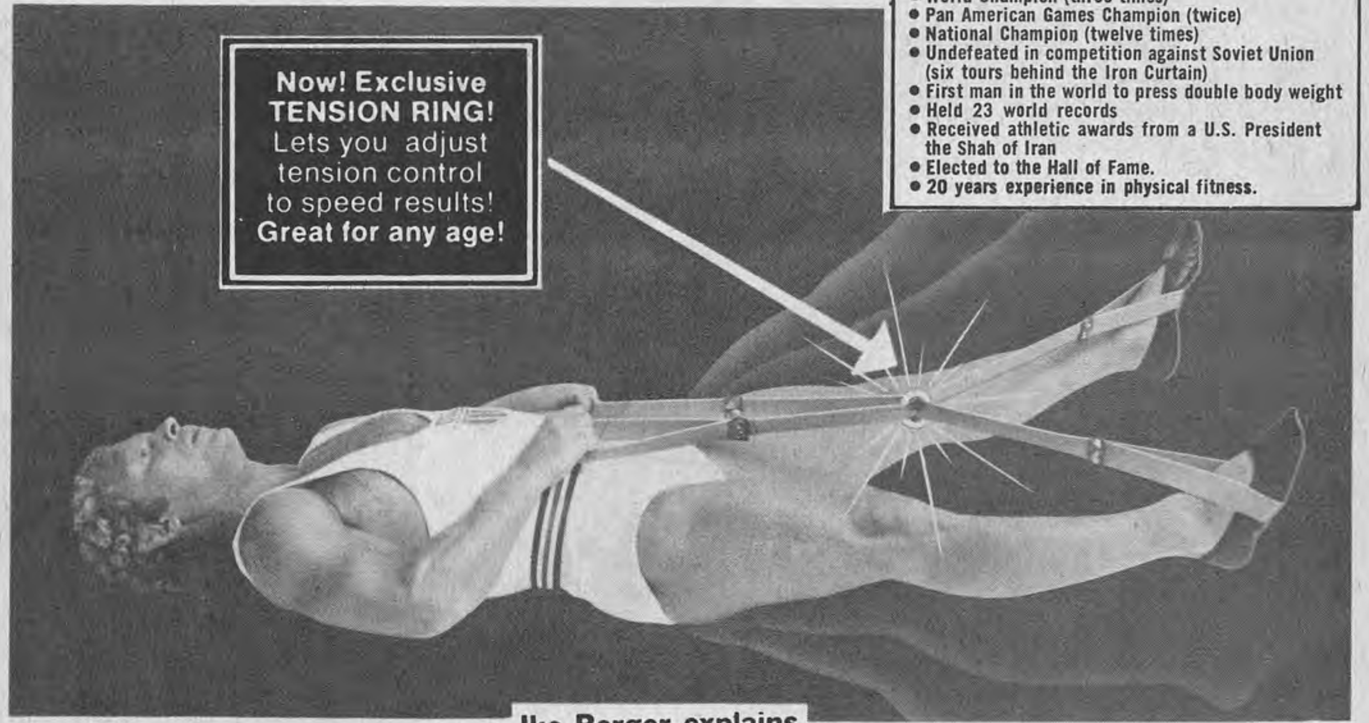
- **Pan American Games Champion (twice)**
- **National Champion (twelve times)**
- **Undefeated in competition against Soviet Union (six tours behind the Iron Curtain)**
- **First man in the world to press double body weight**
- **Held 23 world records**
- **Received athletic awards from a U.S. President the Shah of Iran**
- **Elected to the Hall of Fame.**
- **20 years experience in physical fitness.**



"I'M OVER 50, YET IN JUST 7 DAYS SPEED SHAPER™ 'BURNED' OFF THE FAT AND FLAB I'VE LIVED WITH FOR THIRTY YEARS."

"I'm over 50 and **I thought my fat and** flab was with me for **life**...SYNOMETRICS "burned" it off in only 7 days. In fact results came **so fast** I had to cut my daily 7 minute workout to 5 minutes to slow down the slimming process. It's the most amazing method I've ever tried...and I've tried just about every gadget and gimmick I've seen in magazines and TV."

HY HARRIS, New York, N.Y.

Ike Berger explains What is Synometrics?

You already know about the Isotonic and Isometric principle of body dynamics. Millions of people use one or the other in their daily exercises. I used BOTH methods in my daily Olympic training for years in different separate exercises. One day I accidentally discovered that if I used BOTH methods **together in one single exercise,** I automatically speeded up the results tremendously and I reduced my daily exercise hour down to only 7 short minutes.

The Science of SYNOMETRICS

I later learned the scientific reason for this amazing result. It's called SYNERGISM—meaning that when you combine two methods the result is greater than the both of them separately. I now called my new discovery SYNOMETRICS and developed a special exercise unit I call the SPEED SHAPER. And that's just what it is...a speed method to give you results in minutes, NOT hours! Now...build yourself a "fantastic looking body" with the incredible SYNOMETRICS—the invention **that** works on the exciting new scientific concept **of** ISOTONIC + ISOMETRIC.

What Is The SPEED SHAPER?

An ingeniously designed amazingly compact slimming and shaping discovery that has no ropes or pulleys.

- *Contains no metal, springs, gears or other dangerous or exhausting parts or complicated apparatus.*
- *It is NOT worn around your waist but its powerful effect can be selectively applied to ALL problem areas: stomach, waist, chest, arms and legs, safely, easily and FAST.*
- *It is so amazingly compact that it slips easily into your pocket to be with you whenever needed. Weighs 5 ounces.*

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In just a few days you **must** actually begin to see measurable, real results...**or your money back promptly and without any question.**

*No diet needed if daily caloric intake does not add to your present body weight.

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STATE ____________ ZIP ____________

I enclose $9.95 (plus $1.00 postage & hdlg.). NY res. add sales tax: NYC 8%, NY State 5%.
Save $1.00! Order 2 and send $18.90.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY!

By Bill Apter

The Mongols (above) are now being advised by Professor Boris Malenko while they're in the Mid-Atlantic areas. They hope to get a shot at the Anderson Brothers' tag team title. Bobo Brazil (right) is after a match against a man he can't stand—Big Cat Ernie Ladd.

NWA HEAVYWEIGHT champion Terry Funk is sending out bounty posters promising a handsome reward to any wrestler who permanently puts rookie sensation Chavo Guerrero out of commission. Young Chavo, boasting victories over both Terry and Dory Jr., says, "Funk is a coward. I beat him before he won the title and I can beat him now. It's obvious he can't fight his own battles, so he's trying to get someone else to do it. Well, it won't work. Sooner or later we'll meet face to face and I'll take that belt. It's a disgrace the world champion has to stoop as low as to offer a bounty to get rid of a top competitor."

After a brief vacation, former NWA king Jack Brisco is returning to the mat wars. "I'm feeling better than ever," admits Jack. "And I want the title back." . . . Ric Flair set for some dates in WWWF areas . . . Bobo Brazil anxious for a match against Ernie Ladd, a man he's disliked for years. Now they're in the same territory—the East . . . No letup in the Mr. Wrestling II, Nicolai Volkoff wars . . . Little Louie begging for a shot at the midget title.

The Mongols, Bolo and Geto have turned up in the Mid-Atlantic area and are being advised by none other than Professor Boris Malenko.

"I have been in this area for quite sometime," notes Malenko. "As The Mongols' advisor, I can assist in getting them the top matches. They don't deserve any preliminary bouts; The Mongols are too classy for that. It's all the way to the top for them."

The Anderson Brothers lost their tag team title, but only for a little more than a week. The team of Rufus R. Jones and Wahoo McDaniel won the belts, and hoped to keep them out of the Andersons' clutches for a long time.

"It just goes to show you, Ole Anderson pointed out, "we were robbed the first time. There was a biased referee. In the return match we had an honest referee and we won the title back. We can never lose unless it's by the hand of a referee who has been paid off by our opponents."

The entire wrestling scene saddened to learn of the death of promoter Gust Karras . . . The Missouri Mauler tearin' opponents apart down South . . . Rock Riddle threatening to leave

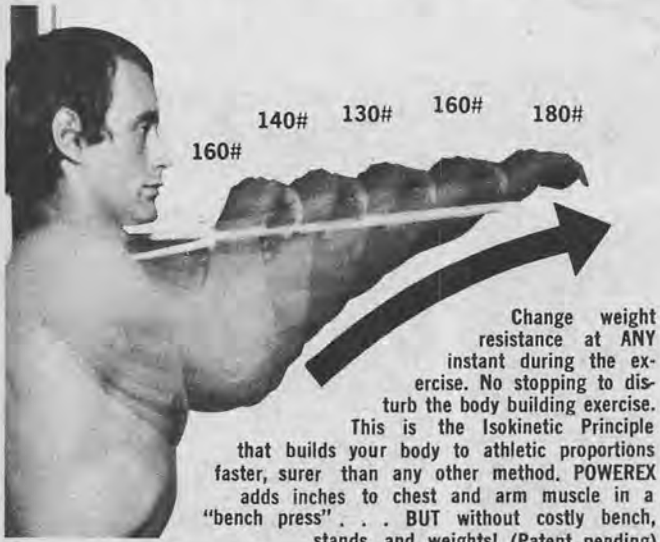
California. "They keep feeding me garbage opponents," he claims . . . Big Joe Leduc wants to get the Valiant Brothers in single competition . . . Billy Robinson after both the NWA and AWA heavyweight titles.

Harley Race believes he has something in common with six time NWA champion Lou Thesz.

"Number one, Thesz is considered one of the greatest wrestlers who ever graced the sport," Harley said. "That also can be said of me. Secondly, Thesz had the capability to bounce back

(Continued on page 60)

ISOKINETICS Will Build Your Muscles Faster...*or you get your money right back!*



Change weight resistance at ANY instant during the exercise. No stopping to disturb the body building exercise. This is the Isokinetic Principle that builds your body to athletic proportions faster, surer than any other method. POWEREX adds inches to chest and arm muscle in a "bench press" . . . BUT without costly bench, stands and weights! (Patent pending)

HERE'S RESULTS FAST — SURE — PROOF

A group of researchers stated that all published research matching isokinetics with weight lifting and isometrics showed that isokinetics is greatly superior for muscle building.

- "After four weeks of using the exerciser, my strength has doubled . . thanks to you."—**J Castillo, AK.**
- "I'm beginning to look like I did when I got out of the Marine Corps." **—Don C., PA.**
- "In just 6 weeks, I put 2" on my arms, 3" on my chest, 2" on my thighs, and gained 22 lbs."— **N.D.**
- "In complete honesty, I think it is a great exercise program . . . the best one on the market!!!!" **—Dave Fuss, IL.**
- "You just aren't another rip-off company. You back what you say." **—T Roecklein, WI.**
- "I've averaged from 2-3" on my legs, arms, and chest — I'm glad that I did invest the money."— **Richard Oxer, MT.**
- "Enclosed is my money order (for a new Powerex). I know how good it is. I had one and I lost it. I am in several sports and cannot win without Powerex. It is the greatest!" **—G Scott, Canada.**
- "Arms increased 2½", chest 3", decreased waist 2", and gained 20 lbs. — look and feel a lot better!" **—Joseph Moreno, CA.**
- "I used to be a singles man — this season I was a home run hitter, and I credit Powerex with this." **—T J, AL.**
- "The results are just FANTASTIC!" **—Richard Lynn, MN.**

ILLUSTRATED WALL CHART COURSES

POWEREX is safe, and light — under two pounds. POWEREX is compact, quick and easy to use, anytime, anywhere. At no extra cost, you also get a big 20 x 28-inch wall chart with illustrations and instructions. Several courses are described . . . for increased strength, bigger muscles, or turning fat into muscle. One course takes only 15 minutes a week.

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POWEREX must bring you results. Try it for 14 days. If you are not satisfied with your POWEREX for any reason whatsoever just send it back for an immediate full refund of your money. No questions . . . no delays! We want you to be satisfied! AND in addition, we guarantee all parts and workmanship for one full year from date of purchase!

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Scientific Test PROVES Isokinetics
• 166% Better Than Weights
• 390% Better Than Isometrics
For Putting Muscle on YOU!

Isokinetics is now proved superior to weight training for building your strength, body and explosive power . . . faster, more effectively than any other method.

A leading medical journal published the scientific experiments of recognized researchers. Average peak strength improvement after only 8 weeks for each type of exercise was:

Isokinetics 47.2%
Weight Training .. 28.6%
Isometrics 12.1%

During each Isokinetic exercise, you continually change the "weight" to the amount that your muscles need for fastest maximum development . . . without stopping. Until recently the only Isokinetic exercisers available were complicated machines costing from \$120 to over \$4000. But NOW, A NEW invention, amazing in its beautiful simplicity, puts Isokinetic muscle building within your reach for only a few dollars.

POWEREX — ISOKINETICS

The invention is POWEREX — an Isokinetic exerciser designed to give you the ultimate benefits of muscle strength, and explosive power faster than ever. And, as you know, with this comes the added benefits of confidence, and the outgoing personality that enables you to get along well with others of both sexes.

POWEREX is going to do all this for you thru the following ISOKINETIC PRINCIPLES:

(1) **POWEREX** builds your muscles through their full range of movement. It works every small muscle fiber to its utmost. Not the grunt-and-groan partial static results of an Isometric gadget, but the total dynamic power of Isokinetics.

(2) **POWEREX** has the exclusive CONTROL LEVERS. You instantly and smoothly change the amount of "weight" working for you, to the maximum your muscles can handle . . . from zero to hundreds of pounds, quickly building your body into a classic, powerful machine!

LOW COST — ORDER NOW

The best part is POWEREX costs you only \$13.95. For about 1/10th the cost of the next isokinetic exerciser on the market, the benefits of isokinetic muscle building are yours!

So don't wait another moment . . . fill out the coupon, write your check or money order, and get it in the mail now. The sooner you do, the sooner you receive your POWEREX and start the isokinetic way to a muscular body and dynamic power!

ORDER ON 14 DAY TRIAL

POWEREX, RM. L-36
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Please Rush me my Powerex isokinetic exerciser and wall chart of exercises. I enclose □ check or □ money order for \$13.95 plus \$1 shipping and handling (total \$14.95). No COD's. (California residents please add 84¢ sales tax.) I understand that, for any reason whatsoever, I may return my Powerex and chart within 14 days of receipt for a full refund of my \$14.95—no questions asked.

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*Address*__________

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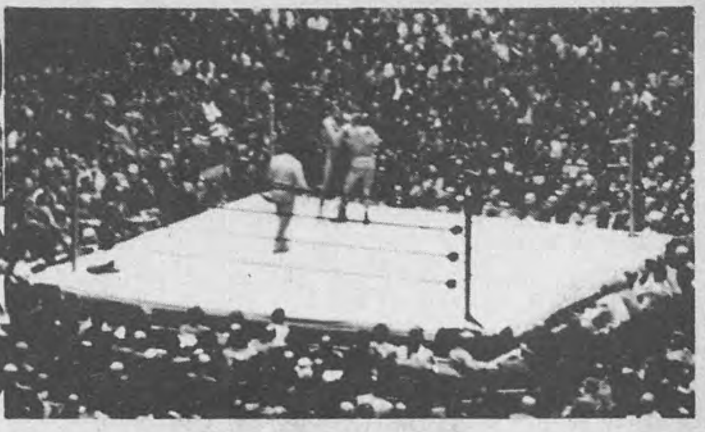
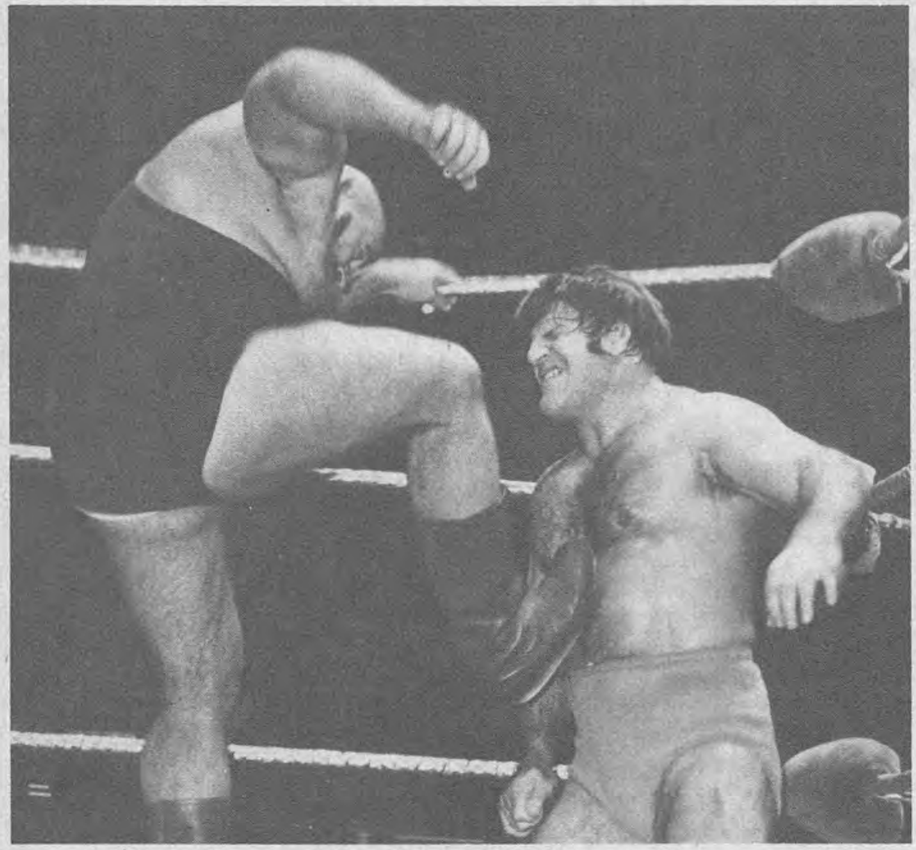
Foreign orders to: Myers Enterprises, Inc.
P. O. Box 1311, Long Beach, CA. 90801, USA

YOUR LETTERS





Ivan Koloff stomps Bruno Sammartino (above). The controversy behind Koloff's five year exile from the WWWF area remains a much discussed subject. Dusty Rhodes (above right) is trying to win the NWA title from Terry Funk, but he has been unsuccessful.

OPEN LETTER TO PAUL JONES

I'm one of your biggest fans. Paul, please keep up the good work. I honestly love to see you wrestle.

Paul, I and all your other fans feel you should be world heavyweight champion. You've beaten the best.

You are Number 1 and you're going to stay that way.

JAN SPOONE
Gaffney, S.C.

TWO BEST

What a magazine! The magazine I'm referring to is THE WRESTLER. Your magazine outshines all the rest by a wide margin. I never miss an issue—I wouldn't dare.

The thing I like best about the magazine is the features on Bruno Sammartino, the king. The recent article, "Was Bruno Behind Koloff's Five Year Exile?" (THE WRESTLER / February 1975), was superb. The pictures are tops. The photo of bloody Bruno punching Koloff was the best photograph I ever saw in a magazine.

In closing, I would like to say, "Long live THE WRESTLER and Bruno Sammartino, the best magazine and wrestler in the world.

LEONARD MILANO
Bronx, N.Y.

TIME HAS COME

Dusty Rhodes wants the NWA title very badly. I feel the time is now right for him.

Recently, Jack Brisco lost the title to Terry Funk. Funk is a very good wrestler, but I feel Dusty is a far better man.

I hope in the near future Dusty will be the new NWA champion.

DAVID FRIERSON
Trenton, N.J.

ANGRY YOUNG MAN

Since reading "Will Andre Destroy the Legend of Bruno Sammartino?" (THE WRESTLER / November 1975), I've been furious. How can your magazine write such a story?

I admit Andre is a good wrestler, but not close enough to Bruno. The WWWF champion has beaten the best and held the title longer than anyone else in professional wrestling.

But I'm glad you printed the story, anyway.

MARK MASLOWYCZ
Brooklyn, N.Y.

(Continued on page 48)

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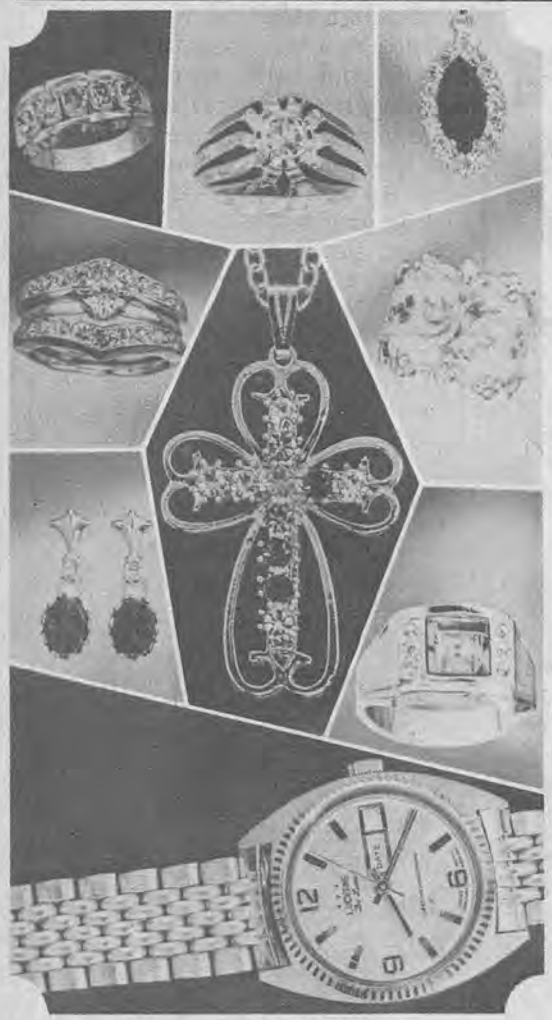

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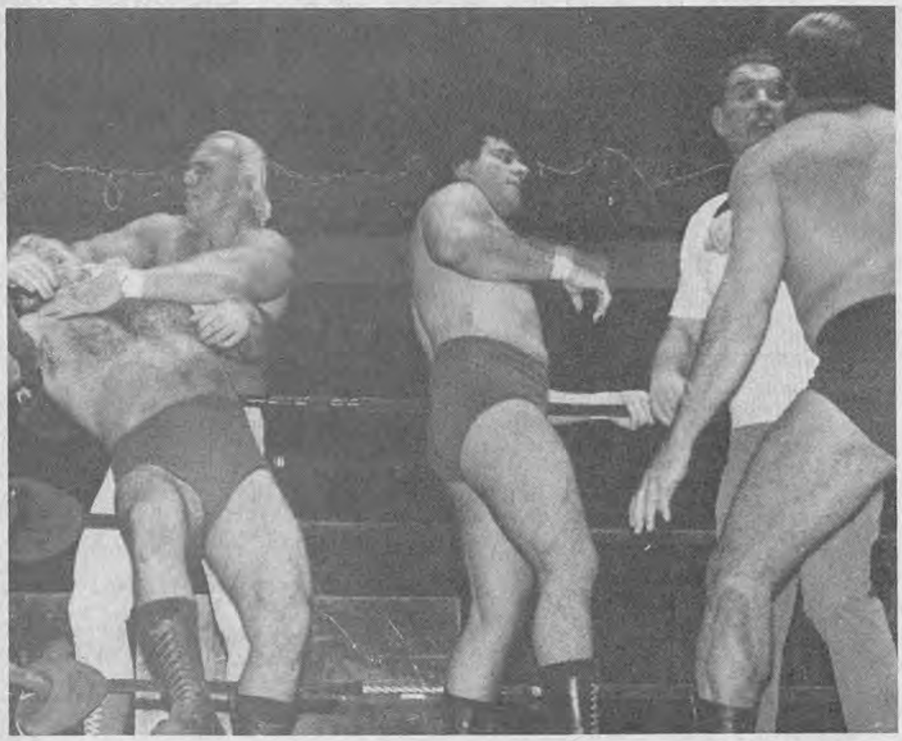
Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571.

PENNSYLVANIA POWER
By Dave Creedon

TWO OF THE World's strongest professional wrestlers recently squared off at Pittsburgh's Civic Arena for an extremely exciting contest. WWWF champion Bruno Sammartino faced stiff competition from Superstar Billy Graham in a tag team match, in which Bruno was paired with Dom DeNucci and Superstar with Spiros Arion.



In a vicious test of strength, Bruno managed to prove himself slightly superior over Graham. In order to defend himself, Billy had to pull Bruno's hair, though he had trouble doing so. These tactics brought out the more brutal tactics in the two men. They began a heated exchange of blows.

The referee was sent flying when he tried to separate the two grapplers. A back-up referee was also sent flying when he tried to stop the two men from killing each other. Finally, other wrestlers on the card had to run in and halt the brutal action.

In other matches Gorilla Monsoon held Baron Scicluna to a draw after the two grapplers had a vicious, exciting match . . . Pete Sanchez overcame Mike Paidousis when the latter's own airplane spin proved to be his undoing . . . Their decade-long feud still continuing, more furious than ever, Johnny DeFazio and Tony Altomore battled a long, hard contest. After some especially brutal action, DeFazio emerged the winner. However, the feud is not over yet . . . In midget wrestling action, Little Louis and Little Johnny staged a small-scale war, with Little Louis emerging as the victor.

The war between the teams of Sammartino and DeNucci vs. Graham and Arion continues (left). Pampero Firpo (above) still claims he can "outclaw" German star Baron Von Raschke.

MILWAUKEE MAT ACTION
By George Lentz

Anxious to settle his feud with Baron Von Raschke, Pampero Firpo convinced a Milwaukee promoter and the AWA to sanction a death match between himself and the German. A capacity crowd filled the auditorium to watch the two bitter rivals battle.

The first few minutes saw the advantage changing back and forth between Von Raschke and Firpo. However, the Baron suddenly brandished a sharp object and began to use it to subdue Pampero.

But Firpo would not submit to the

(Continued on page 50)

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Two fantastic, inflatable, love dolls!

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Judy & Susan, two tantalizing love-dolls can create a new, unforgetable sexual orgy ...every night of the week!

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And here's a special treat! Your SEX MATES LOVE PAK comes complete with the sexiest, most tantalizing adornments; a Peek-a-Boo negligee, a revealing daring bikini . . . etc., they're all included when you order the SEX MATES LOVE PAK.

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Judy

Susan

"Hi, big fella, come and enjoy me!" "Hey, man, feel me, hold me close!"

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Favorite Wrestler ______________

I like ☐ Good Guys ☐ Bad Guys

What Kind of Person Would You Like As Your Pen Pal ______________

Will You Write To Pen Pals In Foreign Lands ______________

You Have My Permission To Print My Picture.

____

(Sign Your Name)

DAVID LYTTLE (14)
P. O. Box 314
San Dimas, CA 91773
Enjoys bowling. Mil Mascaras his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

ILZE VITANDS (12)
4644 W. Belden
Chicago, IL 60634
Enjoys billiards. Verne Gagne her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

MARK DARNELL (10)
906 Cantwell Street
Charlotte, NC 28208
Likes to read. Mighty Igor his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

ALLYN COLEMAN (11)
256·Watson Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07062
Likes model building. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

JOHN FORMBY (15)
721 Second Avenue
Picayune, MS 39466
Enjoys football. Andre the Giant his favorite. Likes good or bad guys. Girls for pen pals.

MARK RAMSEY (10)
901 Garfield Drive
Rochelle, IL 61068
Likes coin collecting. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good or bad guys. Boys for pen pals.

ARLENE MAREK (11)
5446 N. Ludlam
Chicago, IL 60630
Likes swimming. Jack Brisco her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

HARRY SCHWARTZ (15)
98-05 67 Avenue
Forest Hills, NY 11375
Enjoys sports. Spiros Arion his favorite. Likes bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

MITCHELL WALOWITZ (13)
465 Mountainview Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10314
Likes sports. Bruno Sammartino his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

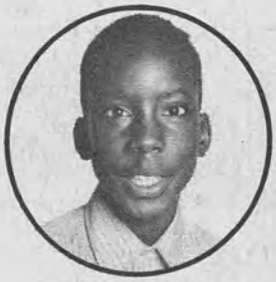
PALS

Produced by JEFFREY SUPER

NEAL BROWN (15)
Rt. 1 Box 66
Colonial Beach, VA 22443
Likes sports. Paul Jones his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

TINA CYR (16)
19 King Avenue
Lewiston, ME 04240
Likes scrapbooks. Jim Valiant her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

TIM EISENHAUER (9)
27 East 16 Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002
Von Erich his favorite. Likes bad guys. Boys for pen pals.



LARRY HARLEY (12)
209 College Court
Adel, GA 31620
Likes sports. Rocky Johnson his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

JEAN DEVITO (15)
10 Poplar Street
Central Islip, NY 11722
Enjoys swimming. Ivan Putski her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

SUSAN RAMSEY (12)
901 Garfield Drive
Rochelle, IL 61068
Enjoys sports. Jack Brisco her favorite. Likes good and bad guys. Anyone for PP's.

MICHAEL DOWNEY (12)
RD 2 Box 70-A
Oxford, NY 13830
Likes farming. Ivan Putski his favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.

DAISY MESTRE (9)
680 Myrtle Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205
Enjoys sports. Victor Rivera her favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.

ALFRED JACOBE (23)
723 Chicago St. Apt. 4
Green Bay, WI 54301
Likes sports. Billy Robinson his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

KEITH ASHLEY (16)
P. O. Box 996
Greenwood, SC 29646
Likes drawing. Wahoo McDaniel his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

LISA COCKLEREESE (14)
3401 S.E. Shorewood Dr.
Topeka, KS 66605
Likes sports. Mike George her favorite. Likes good guys. Boys for pen pals.

WILLARD GORDON (17)
RR 2
Winchester, IN 47394
Enjoys rollerskating. Bruiser his favorite. Likes good guys. Girls for pen pals.

RANDY ROGERS (14)
3400 N.W. 5 Terrace
Pompano, FL 33064
Likes football. Dusty Rhodes his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for pen pals.

MARIA D'AMORE (14)
844 Metcalf
Bronx, NY 10473
Likes swimming. Chief Strongbow her favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

CHRISTOPHER BARTON (11)
RR 3
Ottawa, IL 61350
Likes stamp collecting. Pepper Gomez his favorite. Likes good guys. Anyone for PP's.

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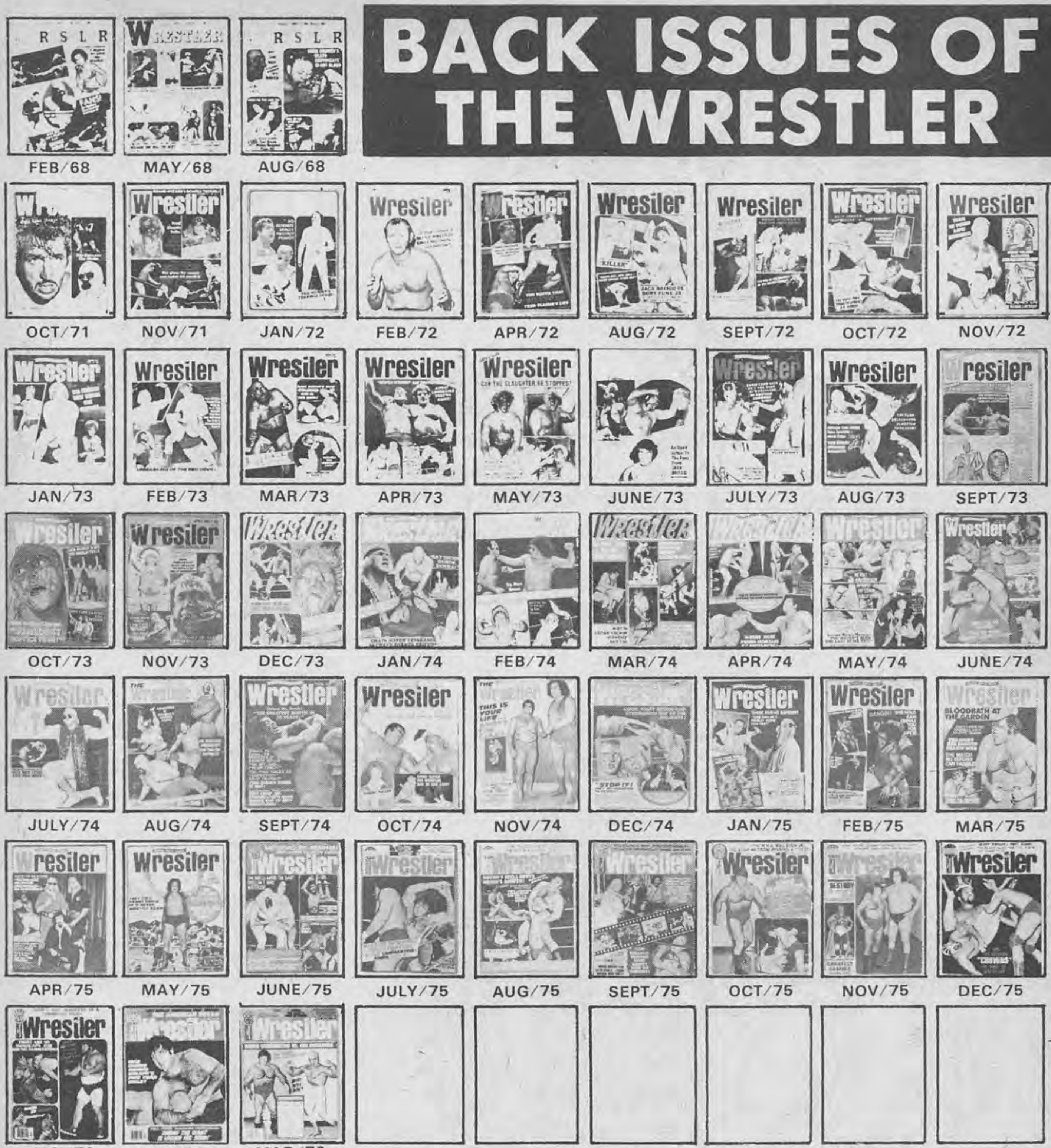

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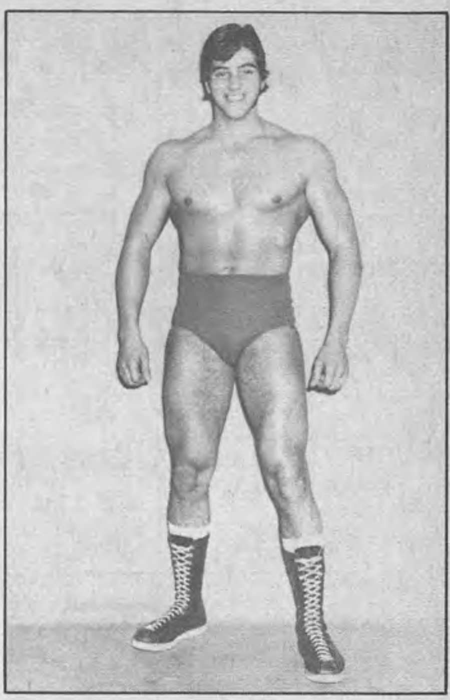
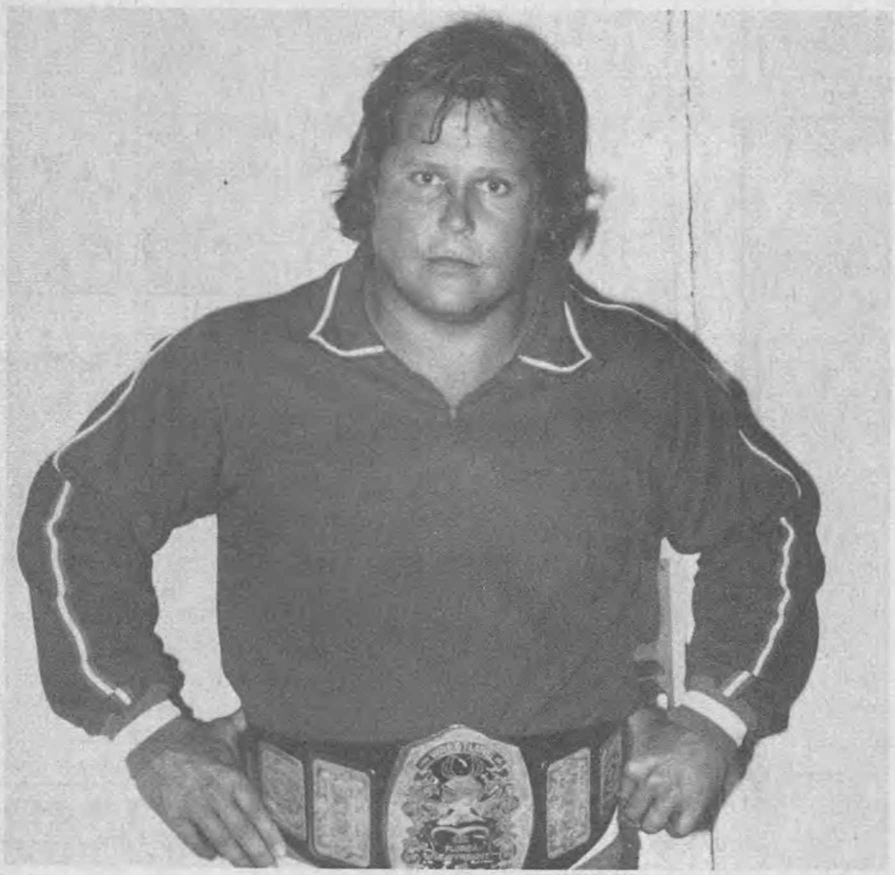
YOU ASKED US

Okay fans. You asked for it and here it is. Each month either INSIDE WRESTLING or THE WRESTLER will publish *your* column—"YOU ASKED US." Just jot down a question and the wrestler you'd like us to ask it to and send it to: You Asked Us, THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 58, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571. Questions will be answered only in this column.



The young and good looking Rick Martel (above) is the object of much female fan mail. Rick loves the adoration of the gal fans!



Probably one of the biggest and hottest feuds in the country is the one brewing between Bob Roop (above) and "The American Dream," Dusty Rhodes. Dusty claims Bob was never an Olympic medal winner while Bob says "Rhodes is full of bull. The record book proves it."

Q: I would like to know what type of girls Rick Martel likes best—Kathy Hicks, Dallas, Texas

A: "I like girls who are pretty and intelligent," says young Rick.

Q: What is Paul Jones' favorite number and favorite color?—Jan Spoone, Gaffney, South Carolina

A: "One is my favorite number," Paul tells us. "It says everything about the way I feel about myself in this sport. I'm number one. My favorite color is blue. I like to buy blue clothes, and as a matter of fact, my favorite ring jacket is blue."

Q: Is there any truth to the rumor Dusty Rhodes started about Bob Roop not winning a gold medal in the Olympics?—Maria Anderson, Freehold, New Jersey

A: "There's no truth at all in Rhodes' mouthin' off about my Olympic days!" exclaims the enraged Roop. "Rhodes is jealous. He doesn't have anywhere near the amateur experience I've had. He hasn't won as many titles as I have either. Anyone who believes that dumb Rhodes must be nuts!"

Q: Is Jack Brisco going to get another shot at the NWA title?— Bob Battipaglia, Astoria, New York.

A: Jack has had several title shots, but he has failed to regain the coveted belt.

Q: Is it true Rocky Johnson teamed with Peter Maivia on occasion?—Curtis Butler, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

A: It certainly is true. When both popular grapplers were in the California area, they were regular tag team partners. "And Rocky was one of the best partners I've ever

(Continued on page 53)

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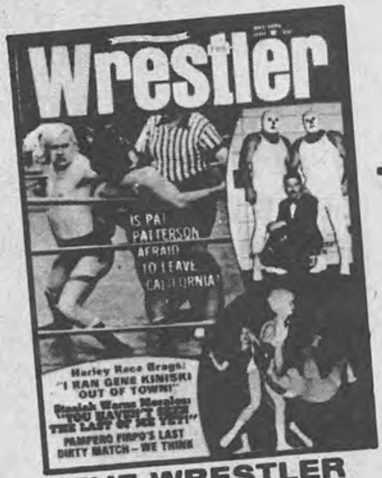

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HOW WOMEN CAN TURN ME ON

By RIC FLAIR

One of wrestling's biggest egomaniacs demanded we print his own story so the women of the world will go all out to make themselves everything he thinks a perfect women should be

Beautiful women constantly follow me around day after day, as you can plainly see (above left, above right and right). I can't blame them one bit. I'm aware that I am irresistible. When you have a great body, a great face and you are also brilliant, how can any girl in her right mind resist you? Ah, what a wonderful life I lead, and how envious everyone must be.

EVERY TIME I walk into an arena, hundreds of women beg me to notice them. They plead with me to meet them after the match, hoping against hope I'll let them have a few minutes of my magnificence. Of course, I can't blame them; seeing perfection often makes people go a little crazy.

What I can blame them for is not being intelligent about it. After all, though I am a perfect human, I'm still only human. Certain things appeal to me. Certain things attract me to a woman. So why do women spend thousands of dollars trying to make themselves beautiful for me when many times they just make me laugh at them.

That's why I had to write this. It's about time the thousands of women who adore me realize what I want in a woman. I'm tired of looking at basically pretty girls destroying themselves with bad taste and low class. This article is to help you girls look and behave like women. This is

the least I can do for you. After all, you can't all get to know me. Being the way I want you to be will be a small compensation.

First of all, starting from the top, short hair makes even a poodle look stupid. Women were meant to have long hair, flowing like a soft storm down their backs. The longer the hair, the better I like it. It's a reflection of the spirit—long hair means great spirit. Beauticians who try to convince you to get your hair cut short should have their scissors broken over the knee and then be exiled to a sheep farm.

Next, onto the face. Eye makeup is the only kind of makeup I like, and even then only in slight amounts. If you're really cunning and can apply other cosmetics so they don't show, then go ahead. But the instant it looks like you have makeup on, you've got too much. Nothing on earth looks uglier than a heavily made up woman.

Eyes are of the utmost importance. First thing I'm attracted to in a woman

(Continued on page 46)

JOHN TOLOS UNCOVERS THE SECRET OF ZODIAC

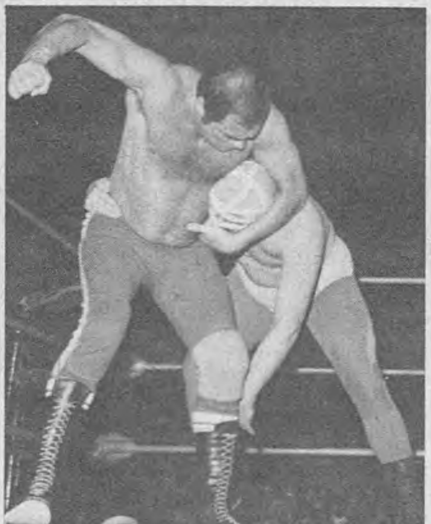
With the fans behind him, John Tolos is climbing to new heights. He's just unmasked one of wrestling's most vicious men—The Zodiac. Will these same fans also lead to Tolos' doom?

PHOTOS BY THEO EHRET

THE WHEELS OF the jet touched down lightly on the runway of Los Angeles International Airport. A few short minutes later, John Tolos deplaned, grabbed his baggage, and soon was in a taxi.

As the cab maneuvered its way up the San Diego Freeway, John was deep in thought about the mission bringing him to Los Angeles: He was to defeat and unmask Zodiac, a wrestler terrorizing the grappling scene in the California southland.

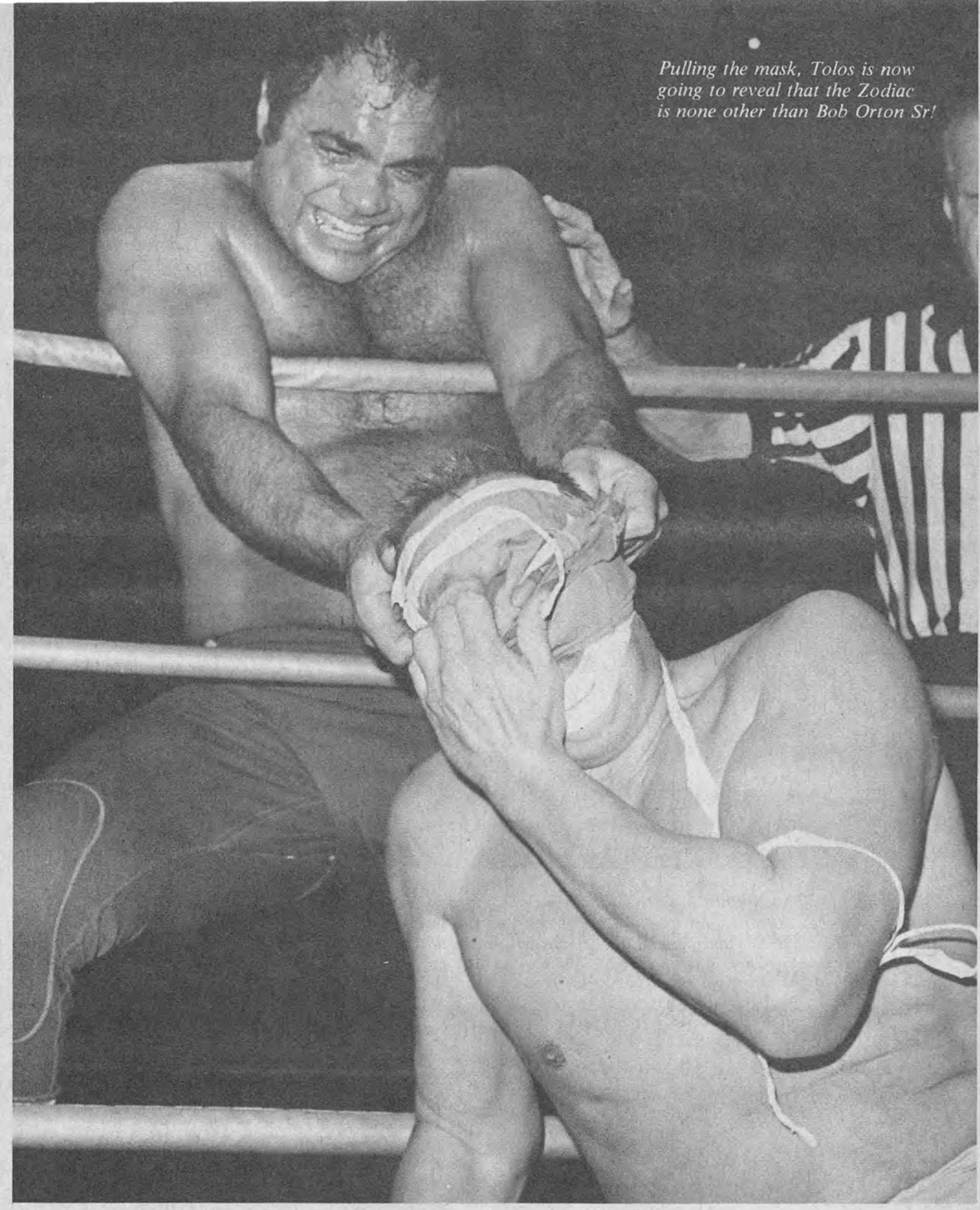
The promoters in Los Angeles felt only a man with John's ability and cunning would be able to defeat Zodiac and end his reign of terror. As the driver guided the vehicle onto the Santa Monica Freeway, heading directly for the wrestling arena, John Tolos became determined he would defeat this opponent. He would stop the terror once and for all!



Tolos starts to smash Zodiac's head in his quest to beat and unmask the notorious madman.

Special guards were waiting in the arena parking lot for Tolos to arrive. As soon as John had paid the driver, the guards rushed him to his dressing room in the arena. "You must understand, Mr. Tolos," one of the men told the grappler, "Zodiac has been known to attack an opponent before he even arrives at the arena. We must take special precautions."

At this point, John began to worry about what was about to happen. He knew Zodiac had gained a reputation for brutalizing various opponents in a most unorthodox manner. He knew defeating Zodiac was going to be one of the toughest challenges. Yet he was unsure of how to react to the publicity surrounding his opponent. Should he believe all the horrible stories and match Zodiac brutal tactic for brutal tactic? Or should John assume



Pulling the mask, Tolos is now going to reveal that the Zodiac is none other than Bob Orton Sr!

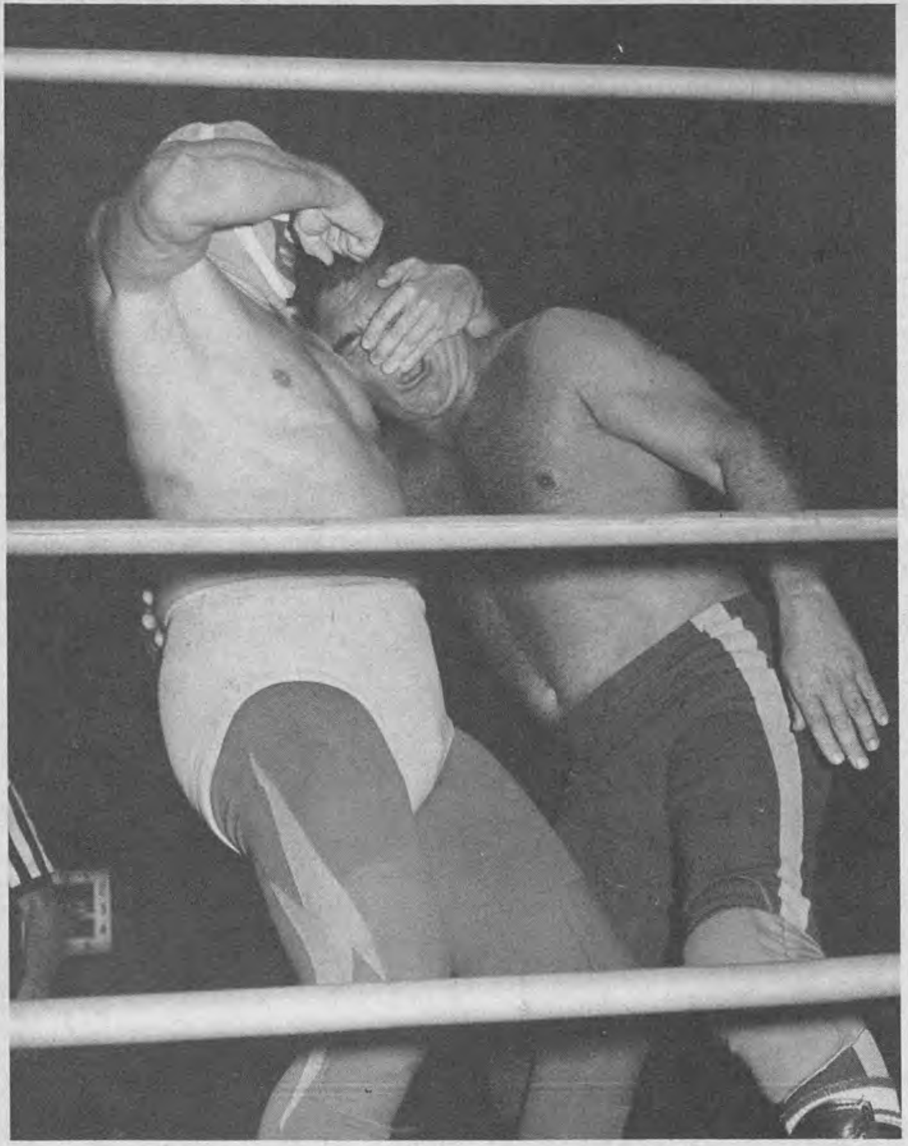
Zodiac was not as evil as his reputation had painted him?

John waited restlessly for the match to begin. Since he had arrived at the arena ahead of time, he took his time preparing for the ensuing battle. About an hour before the match was slated to begin, he heard loud noises outside his door. He quickly learned what was happening: Zodiac had tried to break down John's door and attack him before the match. The special police had scuffled with Zodiac and forced the vicious wrestler back to his own dressing room.

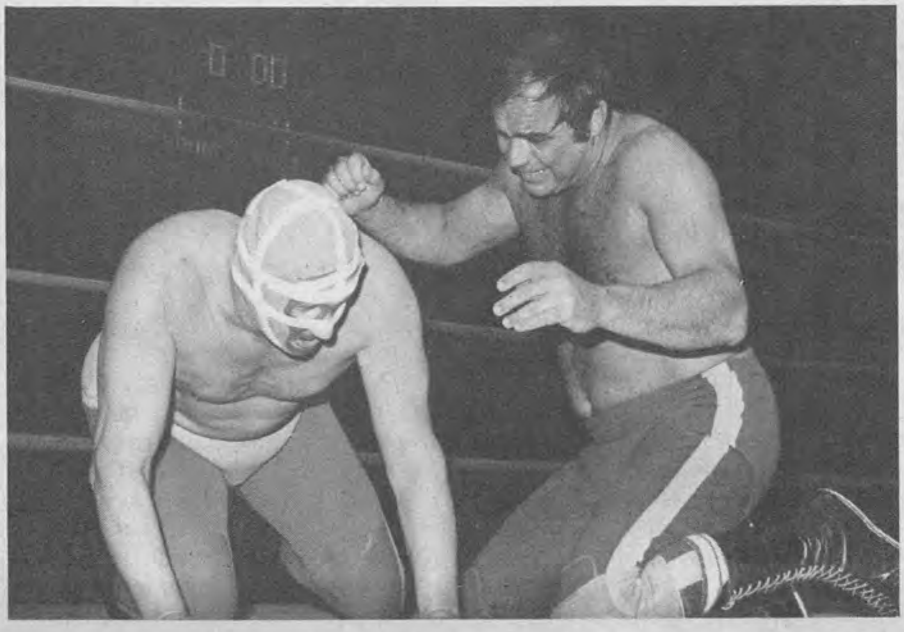
John breathed a sigh of relief as his opponent was led away. He knew at that point what kind of wrestler Zodiac was. He knew, if he wanted to win this night, he would have to trade brutal tactic for brutal tactic. Suddenly, he wished this night was over.

Tolos sat nervously in his dressing room for the next hour, thinking of various ways he could defeat this man Zodiac. He immediately eliminated any maneuver less than brutal. John would have to be the aggressor if he planned to win this match.

Suddenly an idea occurred to



Zodiac batters Tolos (above) and tries to prevent himself from being unmasked. But his plans take a turn for the worse as John takes over again (below) and begins the job that will finish the career of the masked man and start a new one for big Bob Orton Sr.



John. If he really wanted to humiliate Zodiac, he would have to unmask him. Though no man had ever succeeded in doing so, John felt confident he would be able to reveal to the world the face behind the mask.

And so John Tolos emerged from his dressing room with his goal determined. Tonight, Zodiac's face would be exposed. This determination gave John strength—he was no longer afraid of what might happen.

John walked confidently into the arena, his mission secure in his mind. The Los Angeles fans cheered wildly when they caught sight of him, for here was the man promoters promised would be able to stop Zodiac. Tonight John Tolos was a hero, and he was accorded a hero's welcome.

Zodiac was brought into the arena, still held under heavy guard by the special police. They wanted to ensure nothing would happen before the match. Yet one could see the hatred Zodiac felt as he entered the ring. Many fans were horrified at the prospect of what might happen if Tolos was somehow not able to overcome this vicious man.

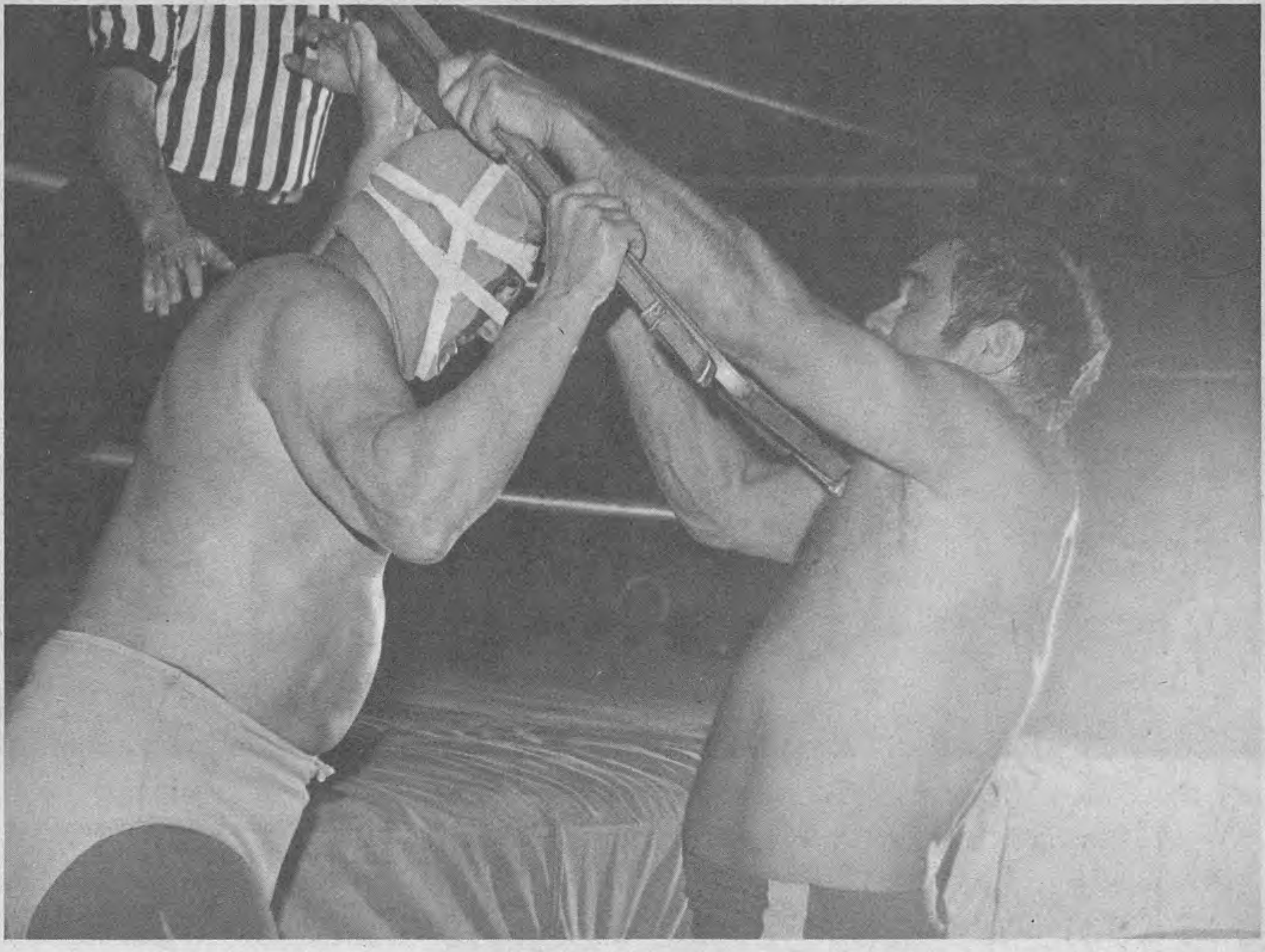
As soon as the bell sounded, all hell broke loose, First Zodiac tried to use a clawhold on Tolos, but John was prepared, and easily slipped away. This was not going to be an easy night for Zodiac!

The two men went after each other for 15 minutes, each employing tactics intended to do permanent harm to the other. Yet neither man seemed able to hold control for more than a few seconds.

For a while, it appeared the contest would be held to a draw, with neither man able to win a clear victory over the other. But John Tolos was determined to win—and unmask his opponent!

John made a quick jump outside the ropes and grabbed a chair from the audience. Zodiac started to run after Tolos, but just as he arrived at the ropes, John reappeared, swinging the chair wildly over Zodiac's head. At first, Zodiac resisted the attack. But soon the masked wrestler was able to withstand no more; he slowly crumpled to the floor, looking far less formidable than ever before.

Now was the time for John to take the opportunity to unmask his opponent. He started to pull at Zodiac's mask, trying desperately to



remove the covering. However, Zodiac was not about to give up his disguise. Somehow, he found reserves of strength to carry out a struggle against John's intentions. But John was not about to give up his goal.

For five minutes, the two men ran around the ring—Tolos trying to take off the mask, and Zodiac striving to retain it. The spectators were on their feet, shouting, "Unmask him!" and "Take off the mask!" John assured them he was trying to do just that.

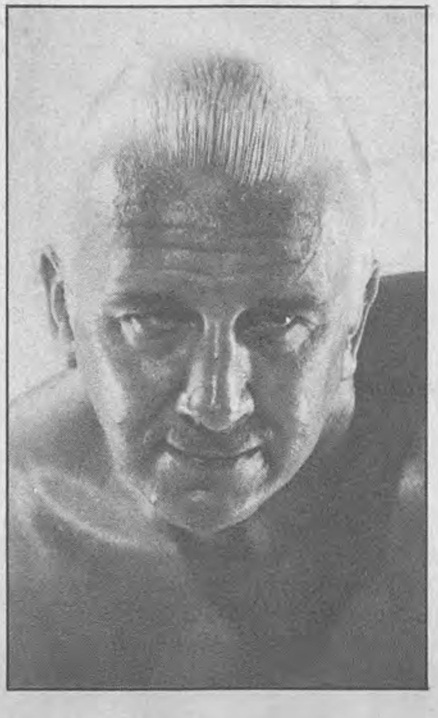
After five more minutes of struggling, Zodiac gave up. John ripped off the mask and revealed the face of Bob Orton Sr.!

John let out a cry of jubilation and victory. He was ecstatic. Bob Orton walked slowly, sadly out of the arena and back to his dressing room, a broken, defeated man.

Two minutes later, reporters swarmed around Orton's dressing room door, demanding a chance to interview the defeated wrestler. But Bob did not wish to speak to them.

When it appeared the press would not leave, Bob opened the door and admitted the reporters to his dressing room. They all clamored to have the first question, but Orton held his hand up to silence them. Then, addressing the entire assemblage, he quietly began to speak:

Tolos bashes a chair over the head of Zodiac (above). Unmasked as Orton (below), the former Zodiac admits, "No one wanted to wrestle me as Bob Orton because I was too tough for 'em!"

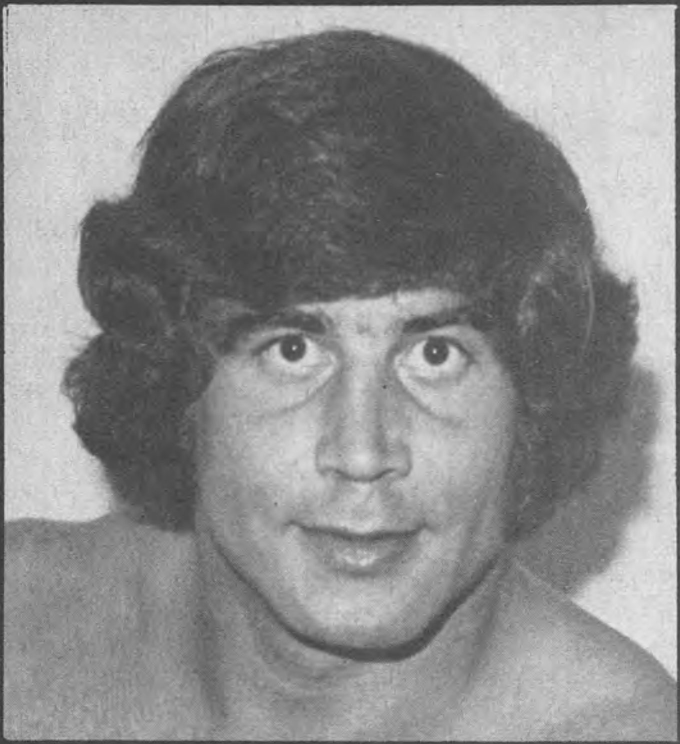


"You are all probably wondering why I have been masquerading as Zodiac. There is no easy answer to the question, but let me try to explain.

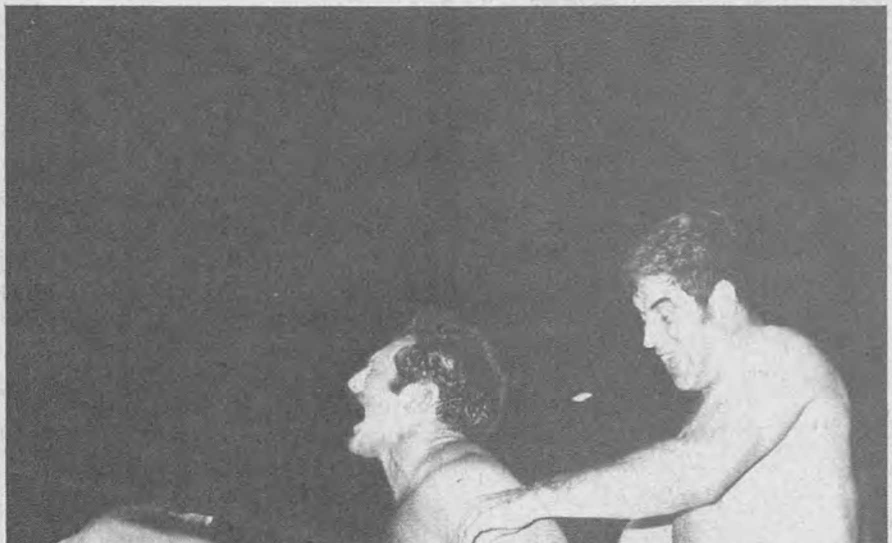
"I was having a difficult time finding matches in Los Angeles. No one wanted to wrestle against me because they knew I was too good. They knew I could easily defeat any opponent I battled. Therefore, in order for me to wrestle here, it was necessary to adopt a disguise. Becoming Zodiac was the choice I made. The rest is now history. Any questions?"

The reporters slowly filed out of the dressing room, suddenly feeling as if it was not really important to ask any more questions. They had their story.

John Tolos soon left the arena and headed back toward the airport, back to another match in another town. And Bob Orton Sr. began to plan his next disguise. □



"HOW PROFES WREST



In one of his earliest tag team battles, Jack holds Boris Malenko while his partner works Boris over. The match took place in January 1969 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Throughout his career Jack wrestled in many tag team matches but preferred to engage in single battles. And it paid off as he won the NWA championship.

By JACK BRISCO

I THINK I was always destined to be a wrestler.

Many of my childhood memories revolve around the fun my three brothers and I had wrestling each other. My oldest brothers, Gene and Bill, would try to tumble around with me, and I, in turn, would do the same with my younger brother Jerry. Of course, it was all in fun then.

When I went to high school, I went in for two sports—football and wrestling. Our town of Blackwell, Oklahoma, had a really good football team. By my sophomore year in high school, I was the starting fullback. But my real glory in those years came when I was wrestling. For two years in a row, I won the Oklahoma State heavyweight wrestling championship.

In the summer of 1960, I graduated from Blackwell High School. I received many offers of scholarships from different universities, but I finally settled for a wrestling scholarship from Oklahoma State University. And that is where I had my introduction to professional wrestling.

When I was in college, I had to earn extra spending money by taking a parttime job. The only work I could find at the time was as a janitor for $100 a month.

One day, I was approached by

"I BROKE INTO
[PROFE]SSIONAL
[WREST]LING"

Our office is constantly flooded with letters asking how to become a professional grappler. We decided the only ones who really know are the professional wrestlers themselves. Therefore, each month a different wrestler will describe the trials and tribulations endured on the path to wrestling stardom

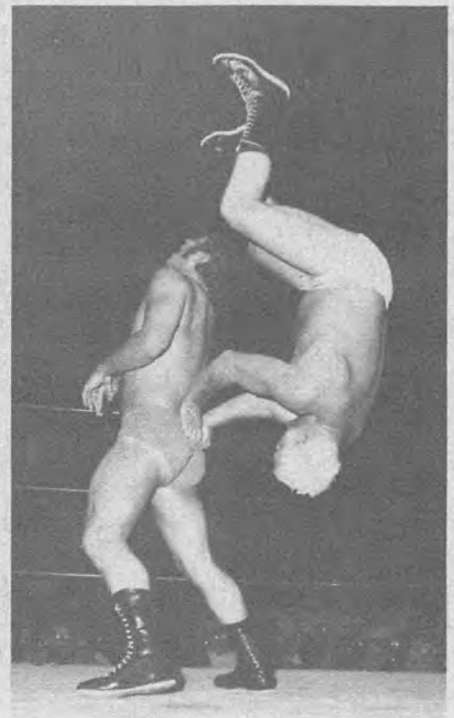
Jack Gott, a referee for the wrestling promoter in Tulsa. At first I ignored Mr. Gott's attempts to turn me into a professional, preferring instead to retain my amateur standing and stay on the team at school.

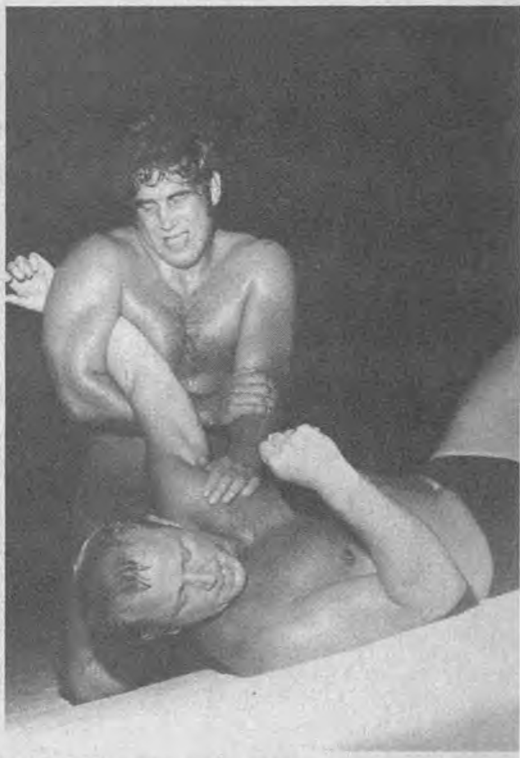
However, the next time Mr. Gott approached me, he offered me $200 per week just to train. At the time, $200 per week seemed to be all the money in the world to me. I could not understand why they were offering me all this money. They must have seen something in me I could not comprehend.

I jumped at the opportunity to make a financial success in the sport I loved so well in school. I started training with some hardened pros, who really showed me what it was like to be roughed up in a wrestling match.

Even though I was training all the time, I was really eager to have my first professional match and prove I was worth all the confidence the promoters had placed in me.

On June 5, 1965, I had the chance to prove myself. The promoters decided I was ready for my first professional match. Terry Garvin was signed to be my opponent. I will never forget what happened. I was so nervous going into the match, all I could think about was getting out. So I did. Of course I defeated Garvin before I jumped out of the ring.

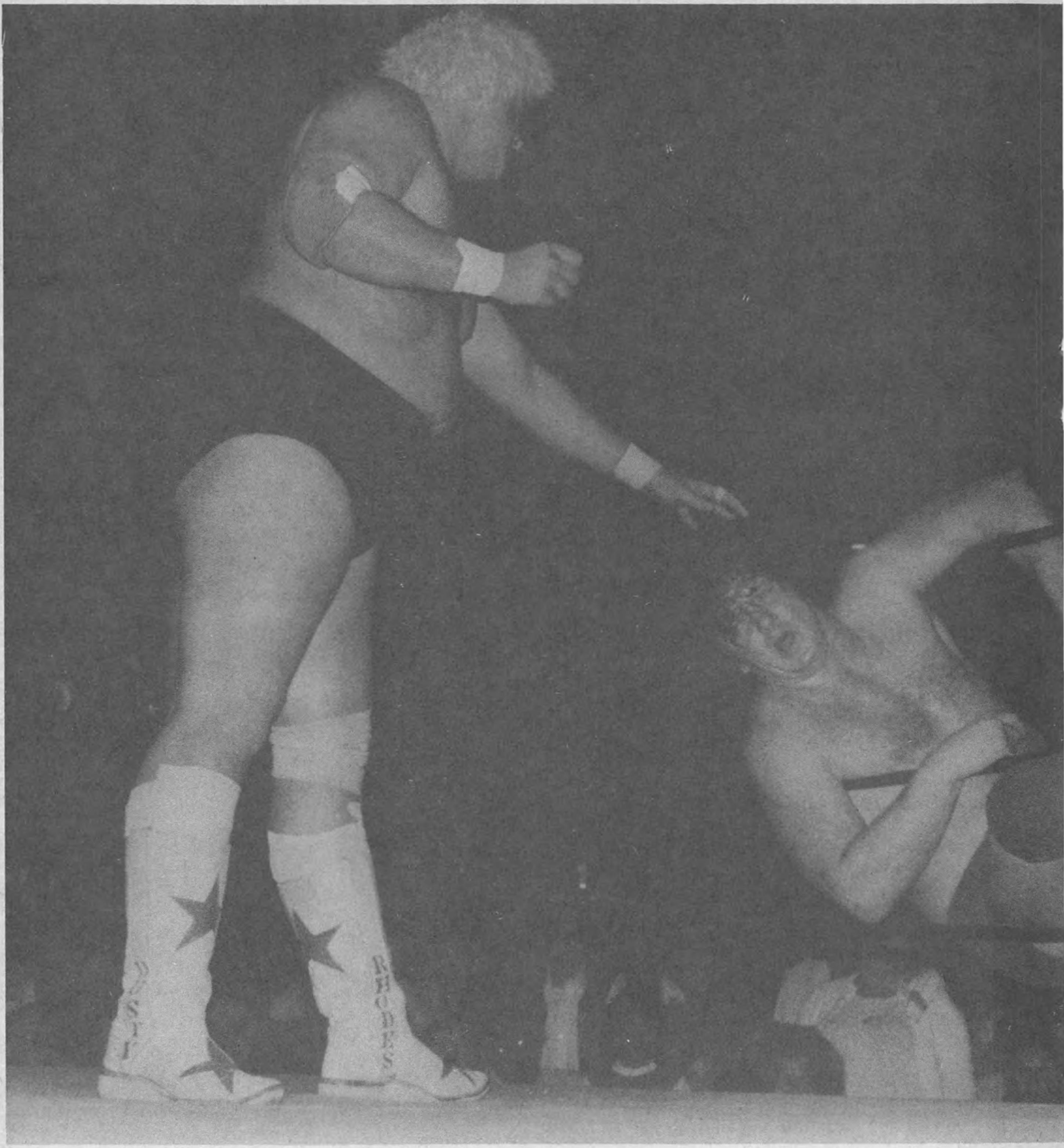




A backdrop sends Harley Race flying (above left) as Jack takes him on in the match that saw him win the NWA championship. His matches against Dory Funk Jr. were some of the greatest ever seen. He captures Dory in a figure four armlock (above right) in this wild match taking place in June 1970 in Charlotte, North Carolina. "I may not agree with Funk's attitudes," Jack has always said, "but I respect him greatly as an athlete."

My career was all uphill from there. I went on to win the world junior heavyweight championship, the Florida title, and finally, the NWA title, an honor I won from Harley Race.

Now, I no longer hold the NWA belt. But someday soon, I will win it back. □



DUSTY RHODES JUST A STEP AW FROM FUNK'S C

PHOTOS BY DON DELEON

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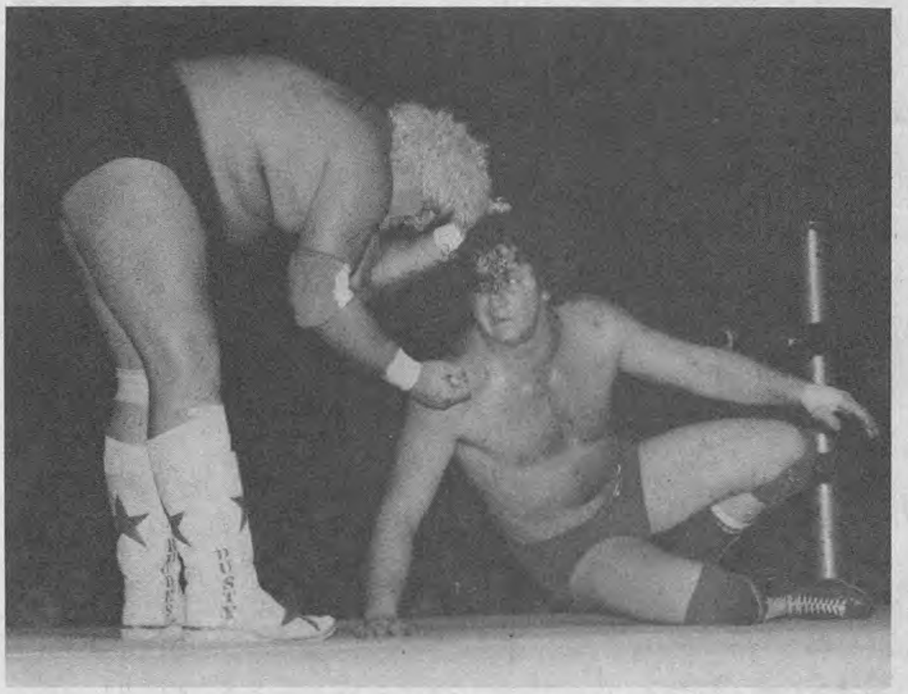
Dusty Rhodes, the American Dream, came close to tasting his most glorious moment—winning the NWA title. Because of a slight misjudgement on his part, Dusty blew his big chance. But he guarantees his army of fans that will never happen again



Caught up in the ropes (left, opposite page), Terry Funk is a perfect target for aspiring championship contender, big Dusty Rhodes. Funk, the NWA champion, is dazed as Rhodes prepares continuing punishment for him (above). Many people in the south hope Dusty will defeat Terry and win the title. "The American Dream," Rhodes, is one of the most popular wrestlers down south.

REPORTERS CROWED around the dressing room door. Inside, Dusty Rhodes was changing into streetclothes. He would soon be out to talk to the press. An equal number of newshounds were waiting for Terry Funk to emerge from his dressing room. No one was quite sure when or even if he would appear.

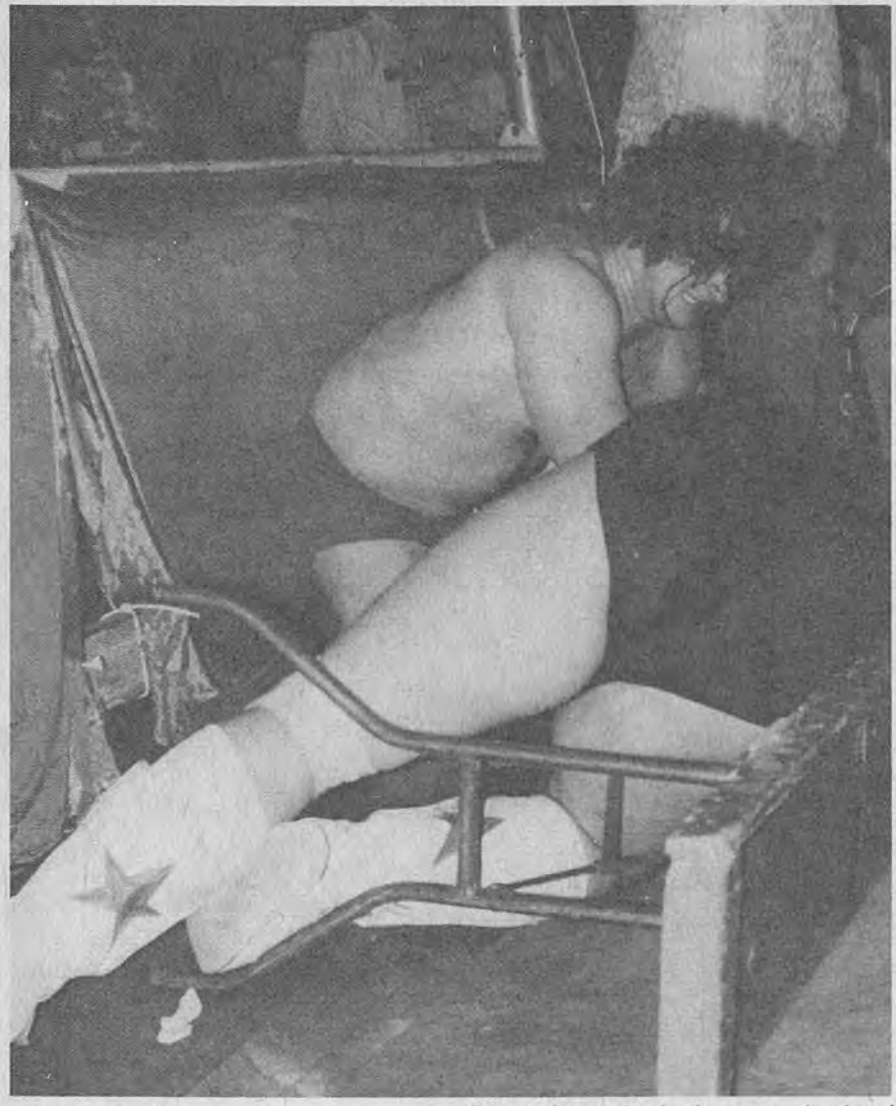
What had just happened astonished the entire arena. It had been a devastating battle in which Terry Funk had come close to losing the NWA title he so recently had won. And Dusty Rhodes had almost fulfilled his prophecy of a "championship for the American Dream in 1976!"

From the opening moments, Rhodes had control. He confounded Funk at every turn, making Terry do whatever Dusty wanted. Within five minutes, an ugly gash opened across Terry's forehead. An elbowsmash had opened the wound.

From that moment on, Terry took to the defensive. It was a textbook lesson on how to defend a title when in trouble. Terry was a master at avoiding the ultimate disaster. Somehow, he managed to escape from all of Dusty's traps.

Then, Dusty attempted a figure-four leglock, the very same maneuver Jack Brisco used to remain NWA champion for so long It was perfectly executed, but unwisely chosen. As Terry had demonstrated against Brisco, he could escape the hold—with dire consequences for his opponent.

Terry twisted and turned and the



Action spills over the ropes (above) as Funk bashes Rhodes' head on a press table. Back in the ring (below) Dusty takes the upper hand and batters Terry.

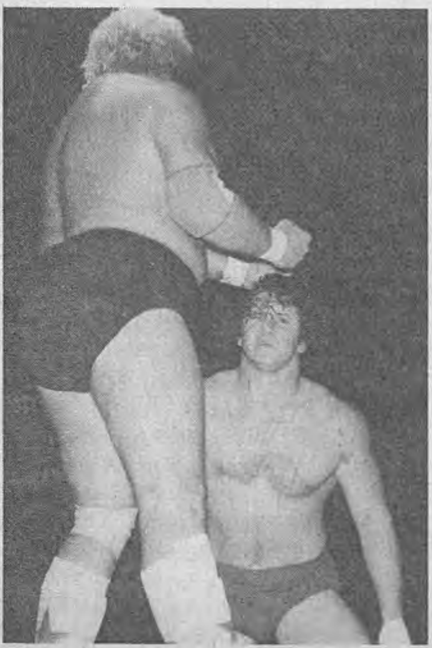


figure-four leglock was broken! Dusty's legs felt like two limbs of pure pain. Only his courage and cunning allowed him to continue.

As the battle fury continued, Dusty flipped Funk high in the air and sent him flying through the ropes. Terry was momentarily stunned when he hit the floor, but he gained his senses and returned—armed with the heavy championship belt.

Terry tried to smash the belt into Dusty's face, but Rhodes was too quick for him. "The American Dream" drove a hard right into Terry's face before the NWA champ even got through the ropes. The two men tussled on the apron and then crashed to the floor, knocking over the press table as they fell.

The fall opened Terry's wound wider. Blood poured where before it had only trickled. Dusty had the wind knocked out of him by the fall. Funk, never one to foresake an advantage, leaped on his stricken foe. That they were outside the ring didn't bother Terry in the least.

Dusty decided to continue the battle on the floor rather than try to return to the ring. The referee had no choice but to disqualify both men. Though Terry retained his title, Dusty had made himself the main contender for the NWA throne. Funk's claim as the premier wrestler in the conference had to be suspect.

It is no wonder why Dusty promised to meet with the press after the match while Terry just passed by reporters on the way to the dressing room. As far as Funk was concerned, the sooner the match was forgotten, the better!

Dusty was his usual happy self as he left the dressing room to answer reporters' questions. Actually, there was no need to ask Dusty anything. His mouth was off and running before anyone else had a chance to speak!

"There can be no doubt any longer," Dusty chanted, "no one is better or stronger. I had Terry Funk in trouble all along. He didn't stand a chance against me. He's lucky to still be champion. And you're only lucky half the time; there's just as much good luck as bad. I just want to be around when Funk's luck changes.

"The match was mine. I was so good I surprised even myself. I keep getting better because I've got to reward their loyalty. I have to become champion for my fans.

"Before we get to 1977, Dusty Rhodes will be world's heavyweight wrestling champion."

Terry didn't want to talk to the press, but he knew it was his responsibility to do do. Subdued, he left the dressing room and answered questions. He didn't volunteer a single word. Someone asked if this match made him worried about the future of his title.

"I'm still champion," Terry replied, with a nasty edge to his voice "I'll remain champion."

Was the pressure of championship defenses greater than he expected?

"I'll say!" Terry replied in an unguarded moment, but quickly added, "But it's not too great."

The rest of the press conference served to underscore one basic point—Terry funk had a lot of trouble with Dusty Rhodes. Will there come a time when Dusty will be too much for Terry? To answer that question is to decide the fate of the NWA championship! □

FROM THE FIRST time she walked into a gymnasium, people knew there was something special about Joyce Grable. One could sense her power and coordination just by watching her walk. Someone pointed at her and said there goes the next women's champion. Nobody laughed.

A large number of professional wrestlers were present for the young lady's first match. They watched intently while this rough, rugged, and determined girl battled her veteran opponent. For one without the skills of a veteran, Joyce was astonishing. Late that night, women's champion Fabulous Moolah must have tossed sleeplessly in her bed, fearing she had

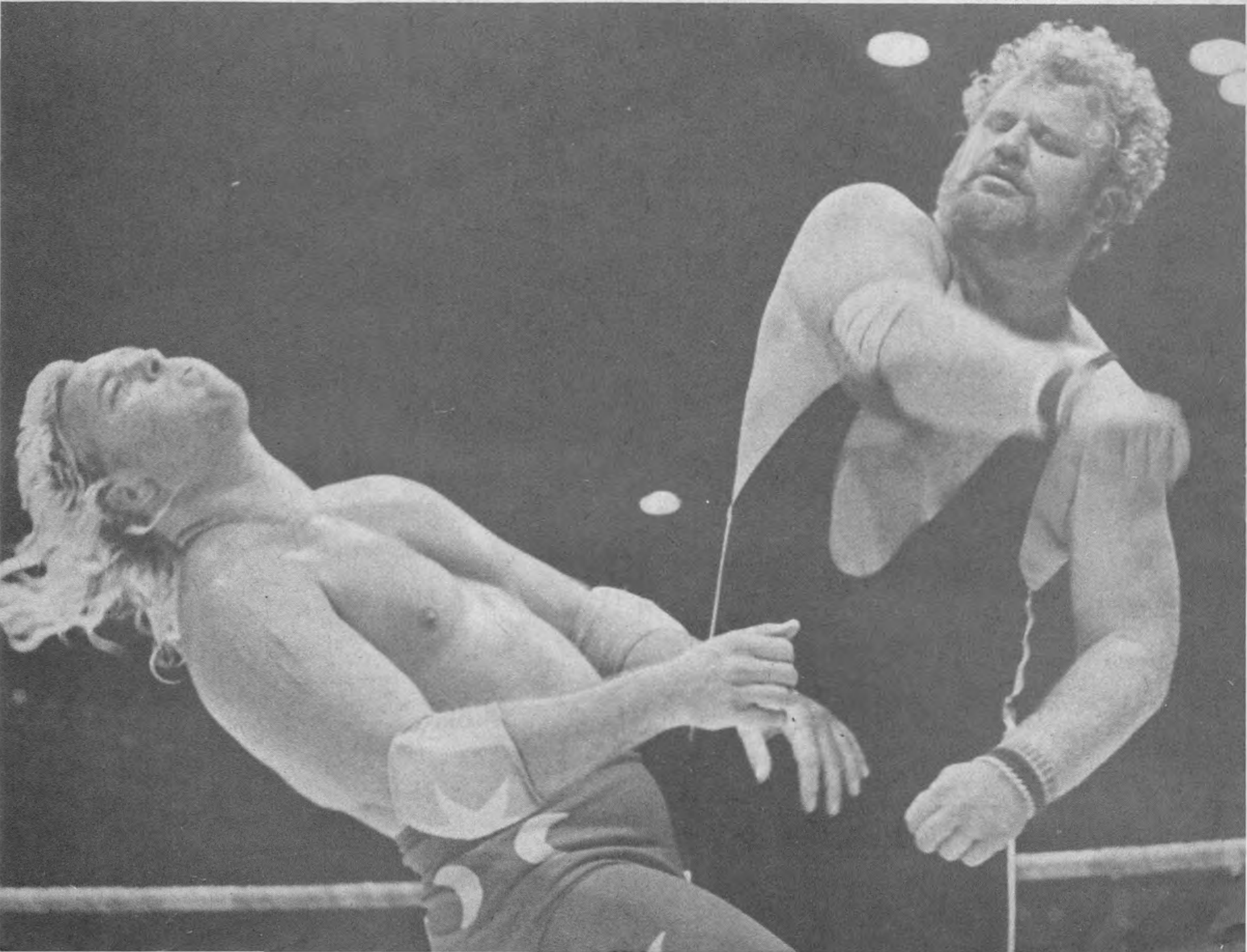
(Continued on page 54)

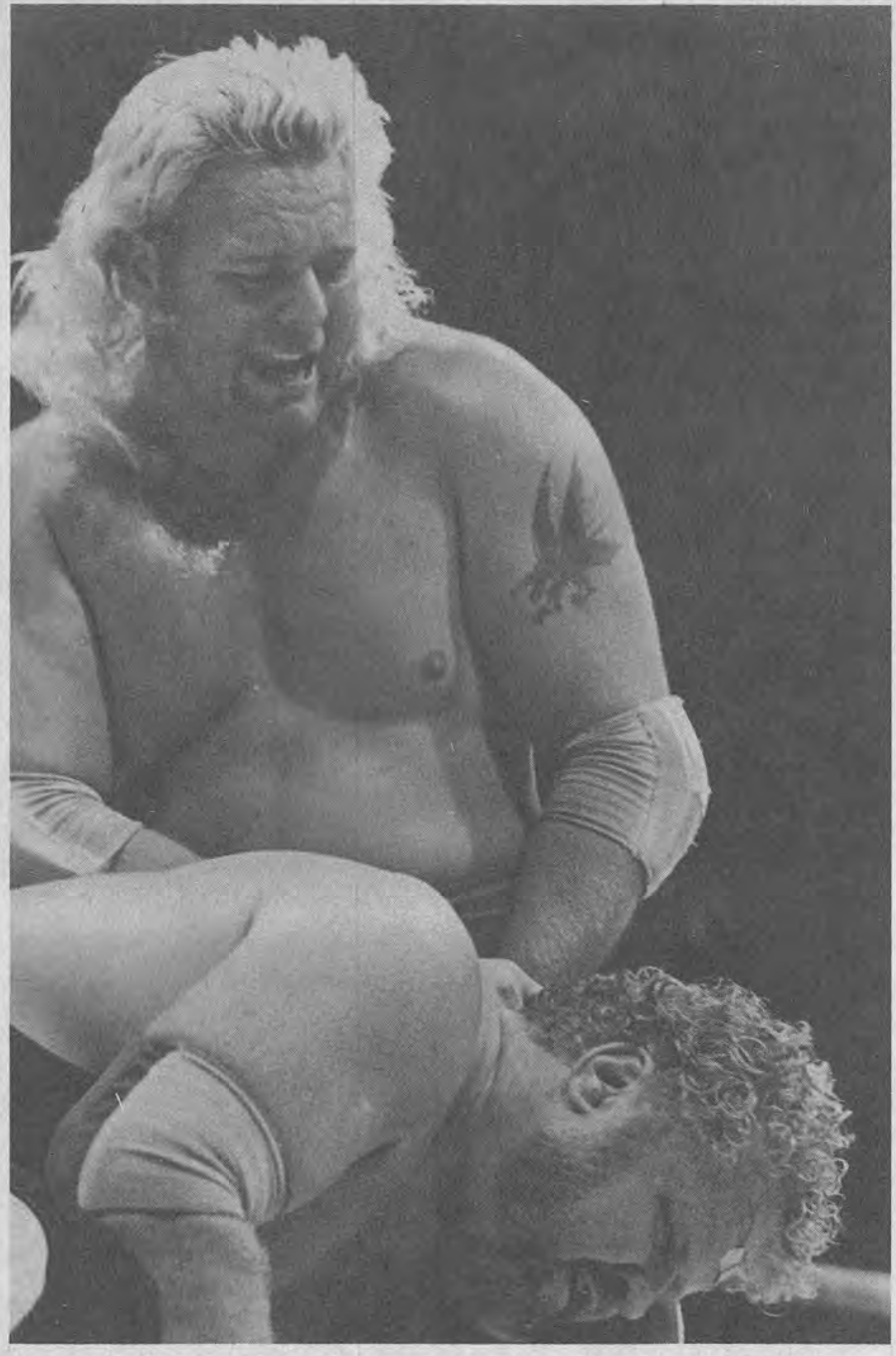
IS JOYCE GRABLE AS GOOD AS THEY SAY?

She's captured the fancy of fans all over the United States. Now Joyce Grable is in the limelight. But she now most prove she deserves to be there

LARRY HENNIG SNEERS: "THE VALIANT BROTHERS STINK!"

PHOTOS BY BOB RUIZ





A powerful forearm by Hennig sends "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant on his way to the canvas (left, opposite page). Jimmy comes back and applies an excruciatingly painful nerve hold on Hennig's neck muscles (above). However, Larry broke free in just a matter of seconds from the torturous grip. "That hold looked a lot worse than it felt," Hennig said later. "Valiant had no power at all!"

At one time Larry Hennig wrestled side by side with his friends the Valiant brothers—Handsome Jim and Luscious John. Now that the bond between Larry and the brother duo has been broken, Hennig publicly blasts them

THE DRESSING ROOM rang with laughter. Larry Hennig lay on the training table, his body convulsing with happy hysteria. Joe LeDuc looked at his tag team partner in wonder, but he couldn't help joining the laughter.

"They're awful!" Hennig gasped between howls of glee. "They're the worst tag team I've ever wrestled against. It is just incredible how bad the Valiants are! How did they ever win a championship? How did they ever win a match?"

LeDuc just watched his partner, not saying a word. He let Hennig enjoy this moment to the fullest.

"From the opening bell," Larry exulted, "from the first instant of the match, those two were doomed. I couldn't believe it was this easy. They're nothing—they're less than nothing.

"Know what we ought to do?" Hennig asked LeDuc. Joe simply shook his head. "We ought to follow the Valiants around, wherever they go. All we have to do is wait for them to win a title, then we take it away from them. Nothing could be easier.

"We'll be champions," Larry declared, his eyes lighting up with the prospects of future glory. "We'll be known as the best tag team in the world. We'll make people forget the Valiants ever existed."

"Why don't we wait a couple of days before determining the rest of our careers," LeDuc said with a smile. "There's plenty of time to think about it."

"We'll make a fortune," Hennig continued, not even aware Joe had spoken. "They'll carry us around the arena on their shoulders. We'll wait two months after the Valiants win a title, giving the fans time to get to know and hate them. Then we come in, easily destroy them, and become heroes to the world.

"I just can't believe it," Hennig concluded, weak from laughter. "I just can't believe how *bad* the Valiants are."

LeDuc knew better than to discuss the matter with Hennig. He had seen this kind of behavior before—all veterans have. Larry Hennig was going through what all wrestlers must suffer after deciding to combat men with whom they were once friends. Hennig has chosen to wrestle his former comrades and was paying the psychological price.

Every wrestler who turns on his friends goes through a period of fear. Knowing his buddies' capabilities, he is terrified they will destroy him for becoming a traitor. Having participated himself in some of these

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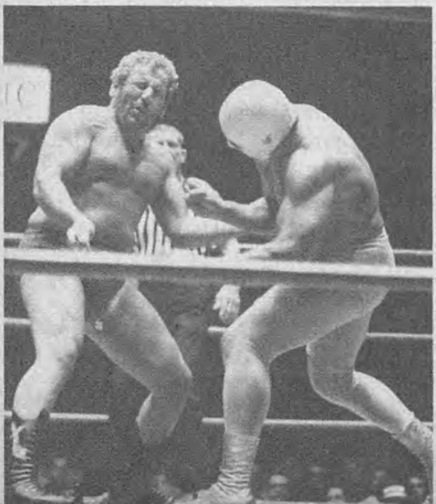


In their first encounter Mil dazzled Sheik with dropkicks (above) and Sheik's very own tactics—punches (left).

IT HAS BEEN said Mil Mascaras is one of the bravest and ablest wrestlers in the sport today. No matter what the cost, Mil has valiantly overcome insurmountable odds, always to emerge the victor against even the most vicious of opponents. And it is said Mil Mascaras would never shy away from a match against any foe.

However, what is said sometimes is not a true reflection upon the reality of a situation. While it may be true Mil will face almost any opponent, there exists one man he absolutely refuses to wrestle.

That man is The Sheik.

But why? What would make Mil Mascaras refuse to battle this notorious wrestler? Why should Mil shy away from being matched against a man he wrestled a few years ago?

Conversely, why is The Sheik not

Revealed for the First Time

THE SECRET AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SHEIK AND MIL MASCARAS

Both Mil Mascaras and The Sheik have been offered lucrative sums of money to face each other in combat once again. Both flatly refuse. The reason, never revealed until now, will startle you

PHOTOS BY THEO EHRET

allowed to wrestle against Mil Mascaras? Why have promoters' efforts to arrange a match between the two men all ended in failure, with Mil refusing to discuss the matter and The Sheik's managers rejecting every offer? Especially since Mil and Sheik did wrestle each other once.

The facts surrounding the match between Mil and The Sheik are clouded in controversy. However, there is some data not open to dispute. It is positively known both wrestlers emerged from the match badly injured. Both wrestlers were in the hospital after the match. Witnesses say it was one of the most brutal battles they ever saw.

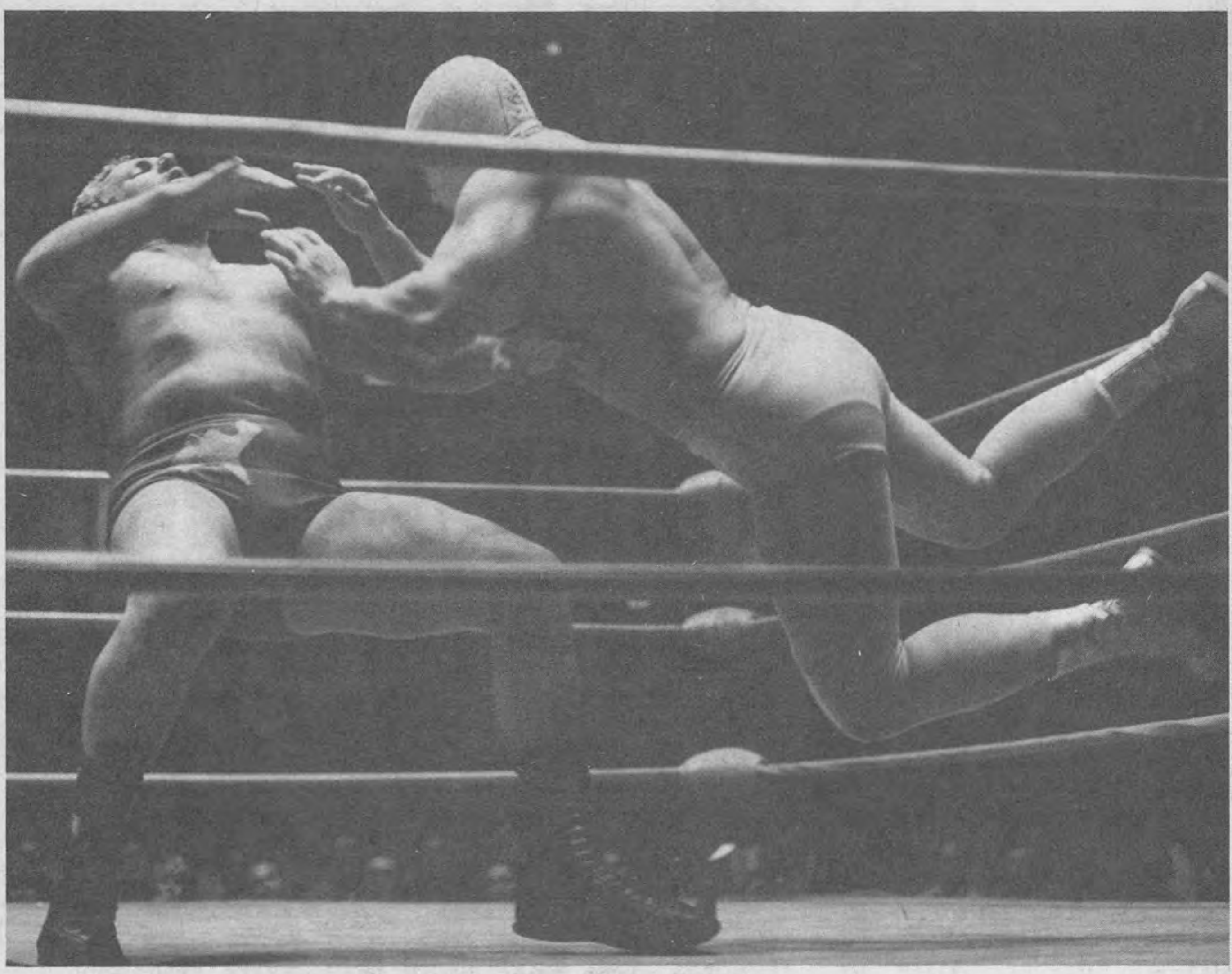
One other fact is undisputed: Neither Mil nor Sheik will wrestle the other again.

At first, Mil was reluctant to discuss the topic of The Sheik. But, after careful questioning, Mil began to relax and talk about his foe.

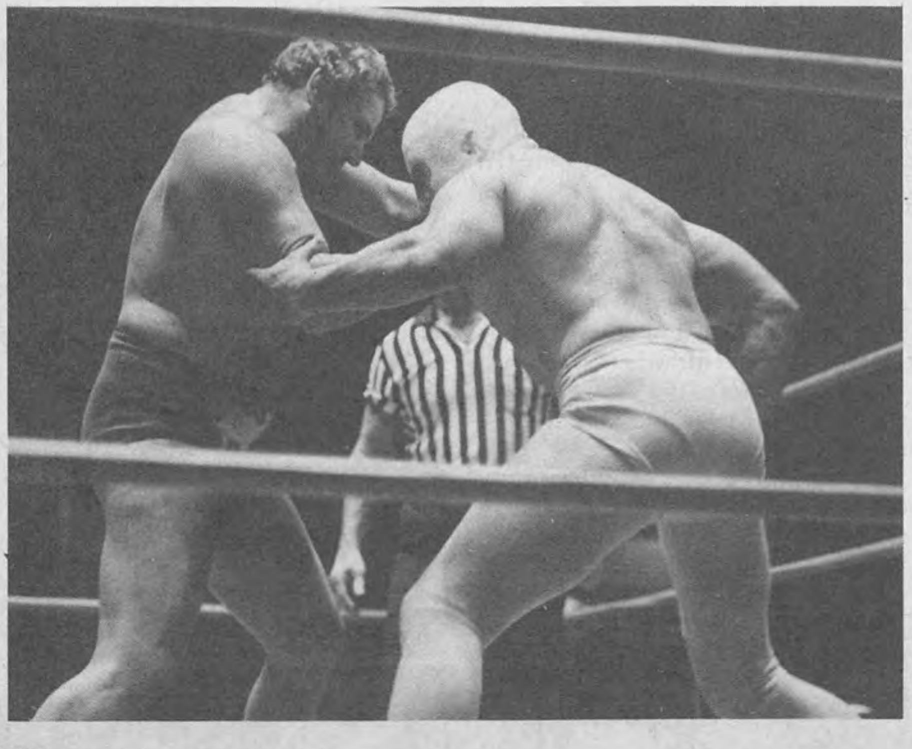
"I must make one thing understood—I am not afraid of The Sheik. I harbor no fear of the man. I merely hate him. If I ever see him again, I will kill him. Nothing less.

"I do not enjoy brutalizing an opponent. I wrestle to win, not to destroy. However, with The Sheik, I would be forced to make an exception. This goes against all my principles. Therefore, I will not wrestle The Sheik. I will not compromise my principles for a man who is the lowest of the low; a man

Mascaras goes berserk and is choking the wild Arab, who is trying to scurry from danger.



A flying bodyblock takes its toll on Sheik (above). Finally the Arab turns things his way (below) and begins an all out attack to stop the masked man's sensational tactics from halting his terror. Both threaten death for the other if they ever wrestle again.



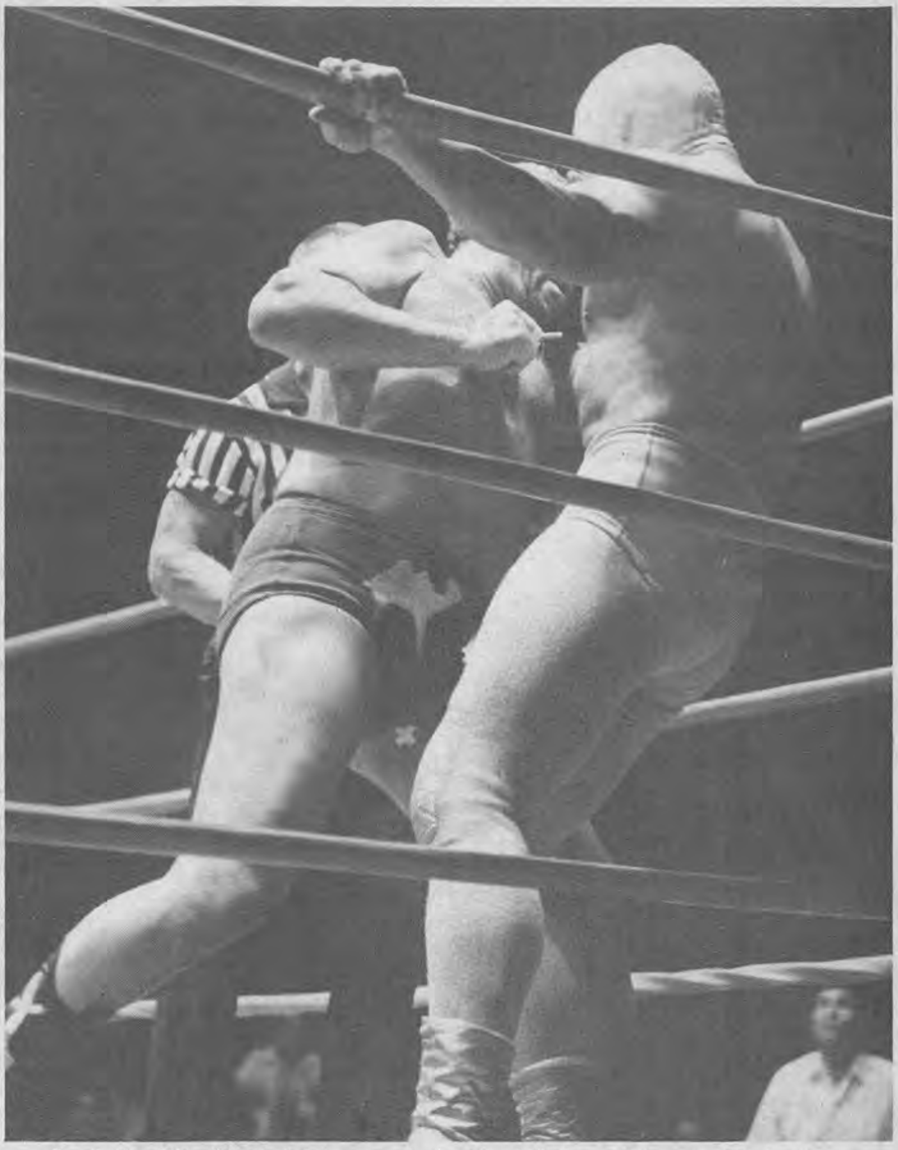
too rotten to be considered one of the scum of the earth.

"I have built my reputation and career on the fact I am a scientific wrestler. I do not have to resort to illegal maneuvers to win a match. Yet if I ever found myself facing the Sheik again, I would use every illegal tactic I could think of. I would not hesitate to be brutal. I would not stop until I had killed him.

"This may sound surprising coming from me. I have never inflicted permanent injury on any opponent. I know I would disappoint thousands of fans if I ever did. But I think everyone would understand why if I slaughtered The Sheik!"

Sheik's managers, Abdullah Farouk and Eddie Creatchman, are more than willing to discuss the problems involving a match between their wrestler and Mascaras.

"It is quite simple," says Farouk, "we simply will not allow the match to take place. If it did happen, Sheik would murder Mascaras. He would use his famous flame power and burn that masked man to a cinder!



Brutally, The Sheik begins to choke the life from Mascaras (above left). Then, taking out his famous pencil, The Sheik begins to tear flesh from Mil's body (above) as the masked star screams in pain. Both flatly refuse to wrestle again despite the high money offers from some of the biggest name promoters around the world.

"I was there the night Sheik and Mascaras wrestled. I remember vividly the pain my wrestler suffered because Mascaras resorted to illegal tactics. I will not forget the agonizing weeks Sheik spent in the hospital after the match. And I know how ready Sheik was to search for and murder Mascaras. He was ready to kill that man.

"It isn't because Mil doesn't deserve to be destroyed. I don't give a damn what happens to Mil Mascaras. But I do care about the repercussions sure to follow if Sheik ever killed another man. There would be lawsuits and court cases and endless litigation. If Sheik killed Mascaras—something he would definitely do if the two were ever matched together again—it is probable no wrestling association in the world would let Sheik into the ring with another wrestler. His career would be finished.

"And to my mind, Mil Mascaras is just not worth risking an entire career for. He is a miserable little man. He is not worth the energy Sheik would have to expend to burn him up.

"We have had numerous proposals from promoters for Sheik to battle Mascaras. We have refused every one of them. They have pleaded with us time and time again to change our minds, but we will not budge from our position. We don't feel Mil Mascaras is worth risking Sheik's career. Whenever a promoter approaches us about a Sheik-Mascaras match, we tell him our wrestler will battle anyone else. Sheik is not afraid of anyone. But under no circumstances will Sheik wrestle Mil Mascaras, ever!"

One promoter, wishing to remain anonymous, told this magazine he had attempted to bring the two wrestlers together for a match several times. And each time he was unable to do so.

"The first time I tried to arrange the match," said the promoter, "Neither wrestler would even talk to me. Both of them flatly refused to even hear my offer. It was a discouraging situation, to say the least. But I didn't give up the idea. Too many fans have asked for this battle. Too many people have expressed their desire to see Mil Mascaras teach Sheik a lesson.

"Therefore, I have to bring the two together one more time. I have offered both wrestlers overly generous terms. I have promised them more money for this one match than they could possibly earn in a year. Yet both have continually refused to agree to terms.

"When I try to find out what they would want in order to battle each other, they tell me no amount of money on earth would be worth the price they would have to pay in the long run.

"But I will not give up trying until I can bring the two men together one more time!"

Will Mil Mascaras and The Sheik meet in battle one last time? The prospect seems doubtful. The possibility of either Mil or Sheik dying in the ring discourages both wrestlers. It does not seem worth it.

Yet someday, the feud between the two men may become so intense they may have to battle.

It is not a day to look forward to. □

MAKING EXCUSES FOR losing a match has never been the style of Bruno Sammartino. When that rare occasion occurs, the World Wide Wrestling Federation champion will simply admit, "I lost." He will say nothing more.

Therefore, Bruno's huge throng of fans was puzzled to hear him claim, "I didn't lose fairly to Superstar Graham in our first encounter at New York's Madison Square Garden. I was thrown from the ring and onto the floor. The rules in New York State say I am allowed 20 seconds to return to the ring. I was counted out at the 10 second mark. I did not lose fairly.

"I am not one to make excuses. Anyone who knows anything about my career will attest to that fact. But this time I was robbed and I can see no

It's hard to shut Superstar Graham's mouth. But with the beating he received at the hands of Bruno Sammartino, Superstar may now be convinced wrestling Bruno was the biggest mistake he ever made

Superstar Graham Learns... BRUNO IS STILL THE BEST!

PHOTOS BY BILL APTER

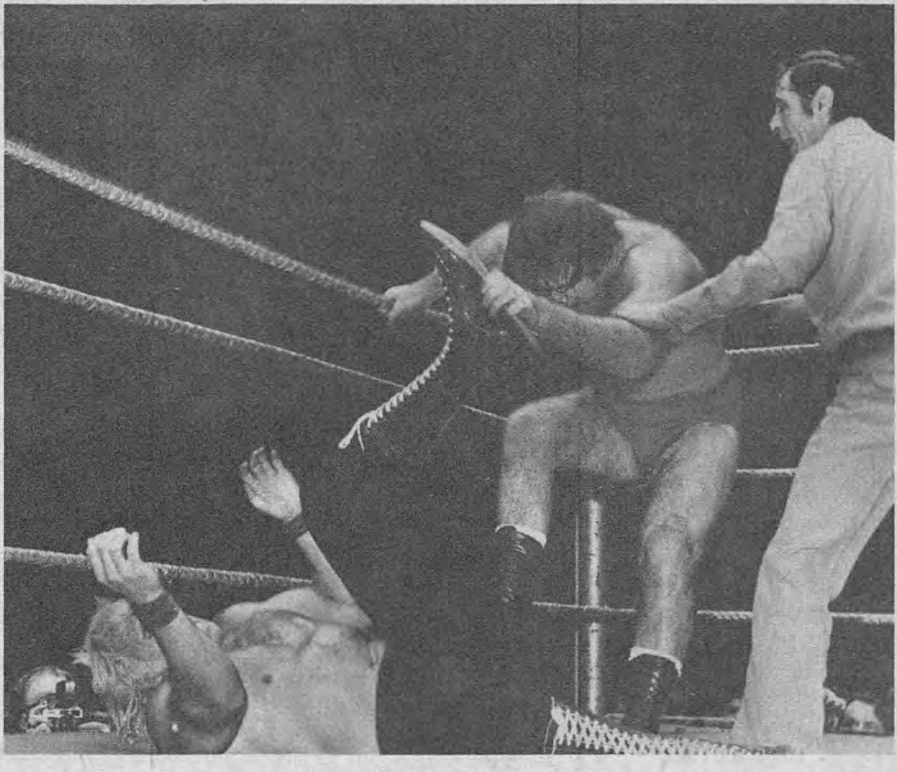
reason to keep silent about it."

The match in question started a furor still raging in many circles. Officials, wrestlers and fans still argue about the decision. And Superstar Graham, along with his manager, The Grand Wizard, is not letting anyone forget the match.

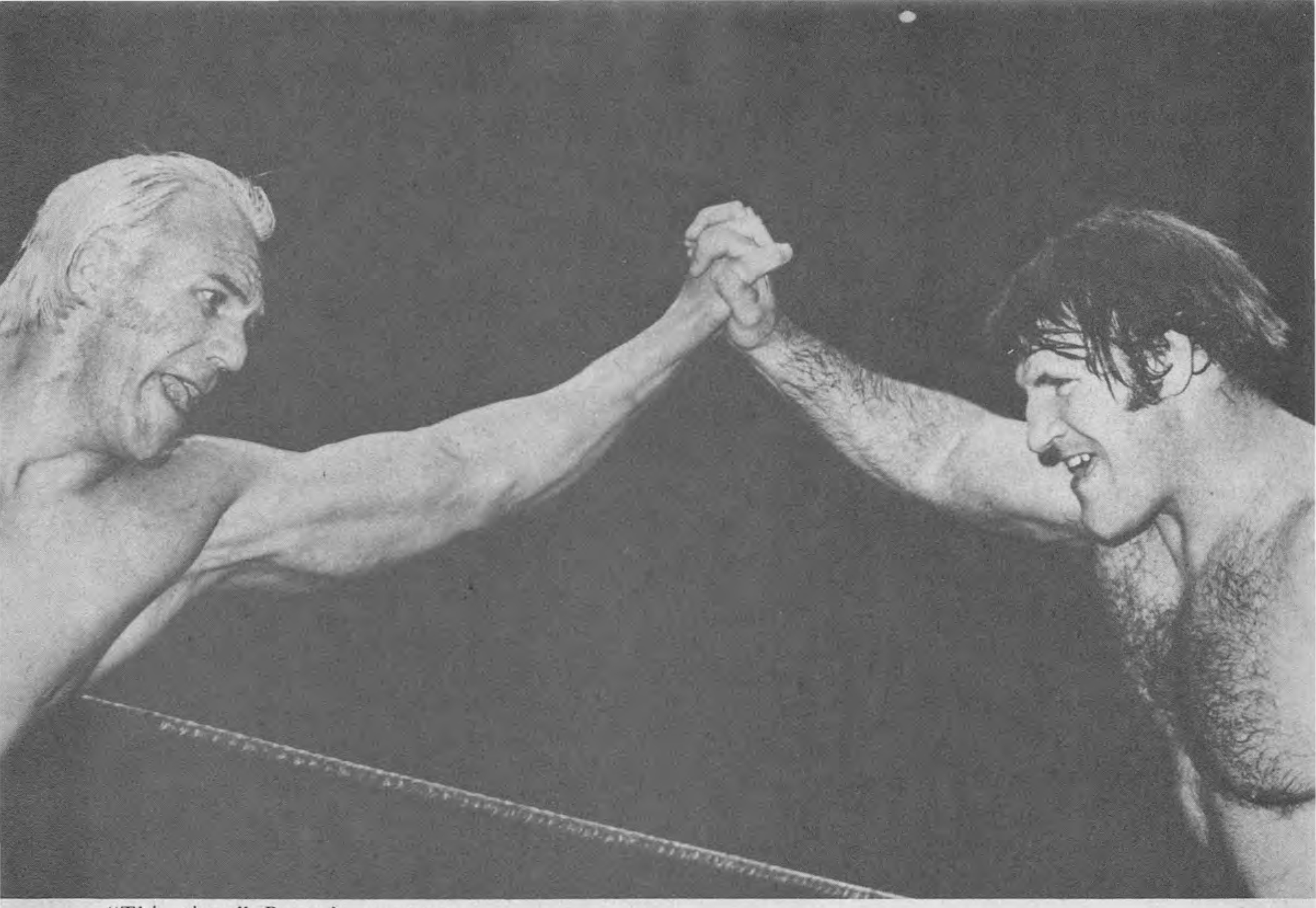
"How could we!" exclaims the Wizard. "My man won. He deserves the title. Sammartino was helpless. His conqueror stood in the middle of Madison Square Garden, being cheered by 22,000 people. We should have won the belt. My man is the champion!"

"That's right baby!" adds Graham. "Daddy, Sammartino was a defeated man. He was washed up. He was ready to be shipped out. There was no way, daddy, he was going to get back into the ring even if the count went to 1000. Where's my belt? I am the champion, daddy!"

A rematch was signed to settle the controversy. This time there would be no mistake made by the referee. The State Athletic Commission assigned the experienced Danny Bartfield to be the third man in the ring. And Bartfield was given a strict going over of the rules by the top commissioners of the New York State Athletic Commission.



His face covered with blood (left, opposite page) Superstar tells reporters, "They shouldn't have stopped the match. I've been cut worse shaving." It is an enraged Sammartino viciously stomping Graham (above) after Graham's illegal tactics become too much for even Bruno to stomach. "I decided to fight fire with fire," Bruno said later. Graham misses with a punch moments before the bout was ended. Graham has applied to the WWWF for another rematch.



"This time," Bruno's manager Arnold Skoaland assured, "There will be no questions. One of them will emerge victorious."

"You can tell how much confidence Skoaland has," Wizard said. "He said *one* of them will emerge victorious. He won't go out on a limb and say it will be Sammartino. That's because he knows, deep down in his black heart, Superstar will win and rule the wrestling world. Superstar beat Bruno last time and it will be no sweat for Billy to beat him again."

Madison Square Garden was sold out days before the return clash. There was such a great call for tickets promoters opened The Felt Forum arena for a closed circut telecast of the event.

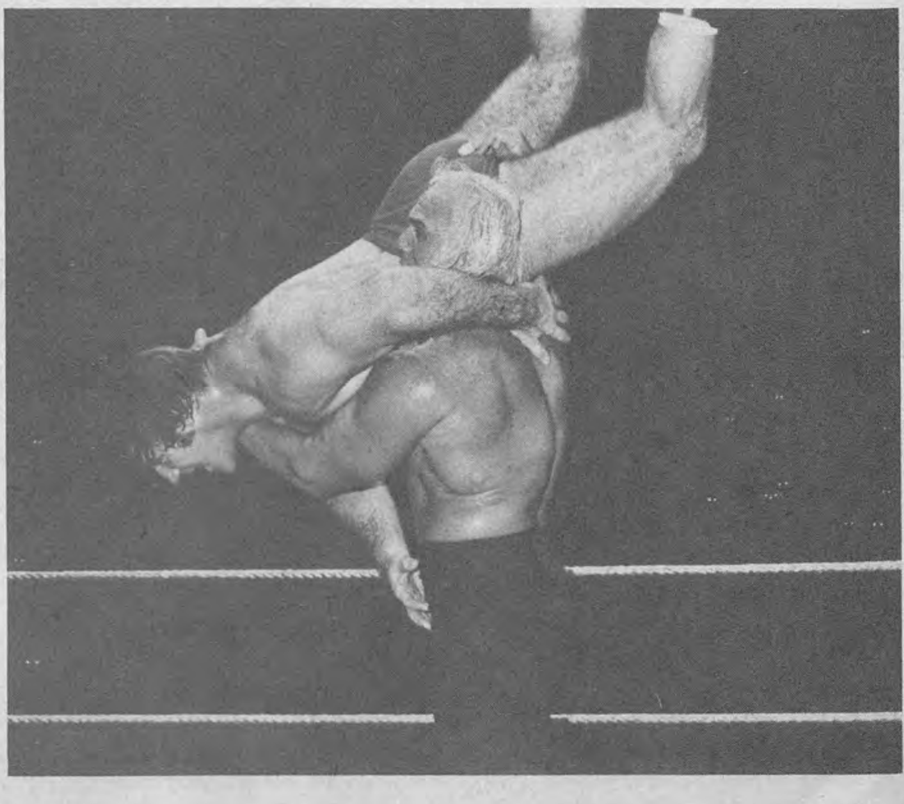
When match time finally arrived, Graham and The Wizard entered the arena first. Graham, wearing a chic outfit topped with feathers strutted around the ring yelling, "In just a few minutes, people, the title will be mine." The boos from the crowd were defeaning.

Next Sammartino and his manager jogged down the aisle toward the ring. Cheers rang out as they stepped into the squared circle.

In just a few short moments the match was underway. As the two titans

(Continued on page 58)

Bruno and Graham lock fingers in the beginning of a test of raw strength (above). It's Sammartino who'll take the advantage. But Graham scores as he bodyslams the champion (below), stopping him for the moment. Graham still believes he can win Bruno's title.



THAT'S USING YOUR HEAD, RAY!

PHOTOS BY BILL BEACH

THE TAPE WAS wound tightly around the brass knuckles on Ray Stevens' fists. Everything had to be fitted perfectly. There was no room for error. A shoddy wrapping could mean a split skull.

In less than half an hour, Stevens would be trading loaded punches with Lawman for the brass knuckles championship. It is an especially bloody contest for an extraordinary type of man—the kind of person who would walk into the face of a cannon and take his chances. Stevens had been taking chances all through his career.

Facing a brass knuckles contest can make a man reflect on a lot of things. It helped Stevens to talk before he went into battle:

"To win this kind of brawl, you need brains and guts. Power isn't all that important. Brass knuckles can give the average guy a punch like a mule's kick. When a stupid guy gets into a match like this, he leaves on a stretcher.

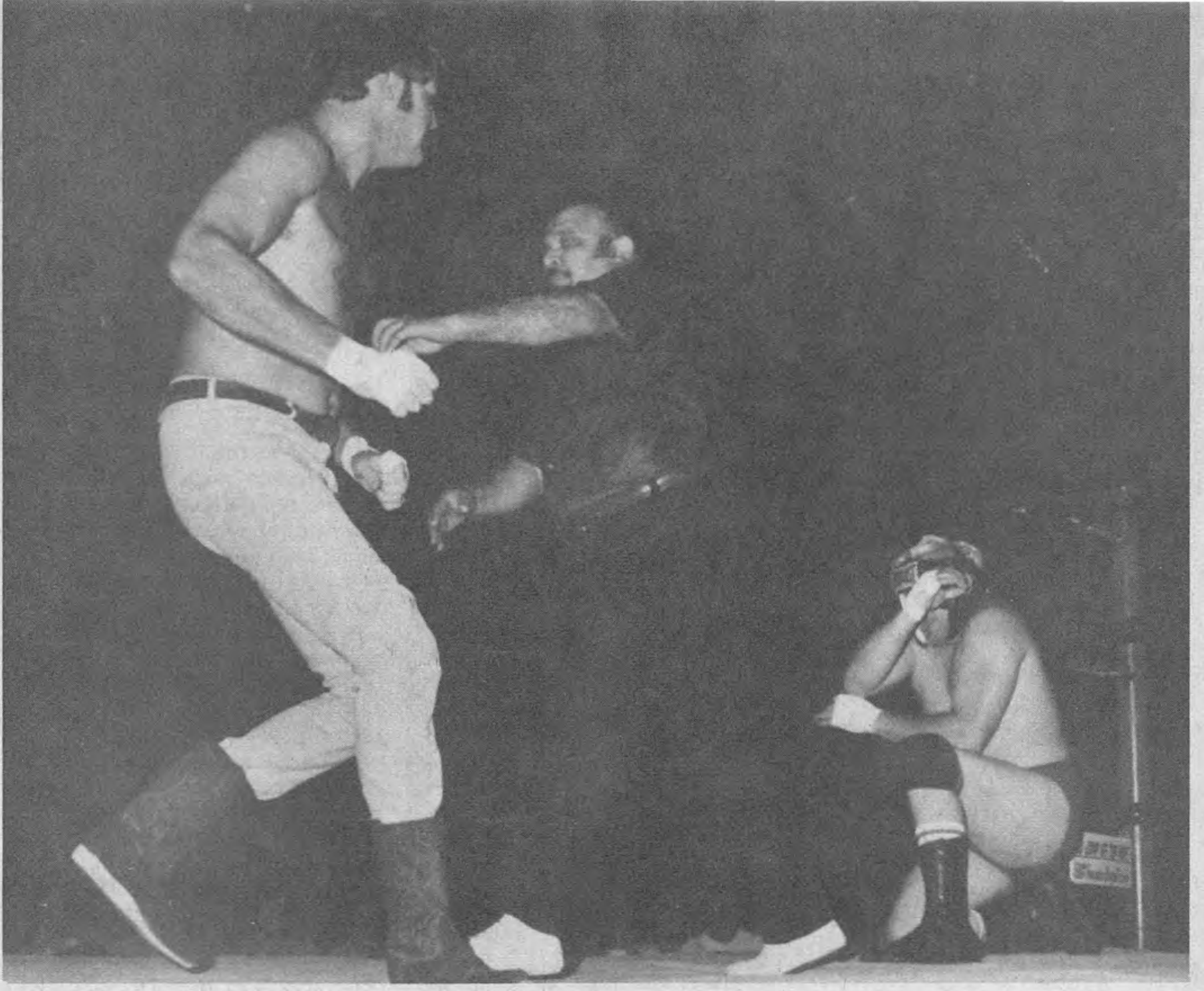
"I won this match two weeks ago. That's when I checked the rulebooks and discovered there's no rule against wearing headgear to soften the blows. With my head protected, I can last for days. Lawman doesn't stand a chance."

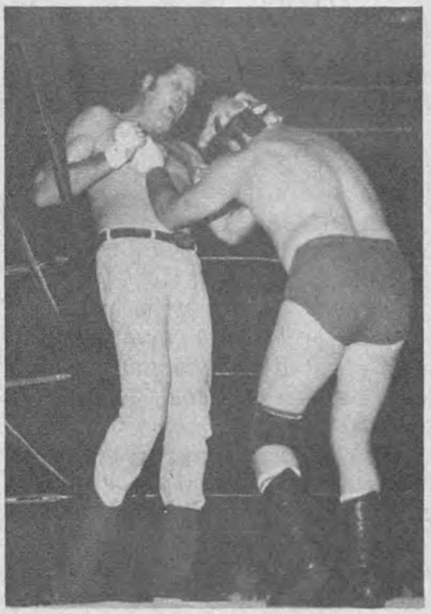
However, Ray was aware a good body punch by his foe could crack a few ribs, and perhaps do extensive internal damage.

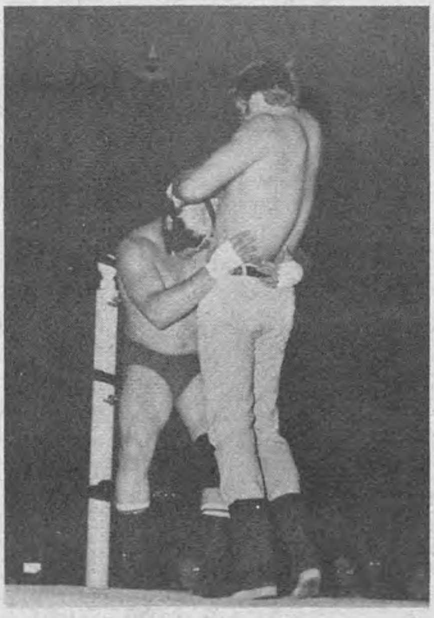
"You learn to take a few risks in this business. The brass knuckles championship is worth the outside risk of getting a couple of bruises. You can't think about it, really; it only makes you nervous. Anyway, Lawman is one who has to worry. He doesn't stand a snowball's

Stevens sports a headguard (left). He takes charge (above) but loses his lead (below) as Lawman strips the helmet.

To ward off The Lawman's brass knuckles attack, Ray Stevens wore a boxer's headguard. But Ray found out it takes more than that to stop an enraged cowboy!







The referee holds Lawman off as Stevens begs for mercy (above). It's anyone's battle (far left) in a slugfest. Lawman tries to remove the headguard (left) but he fails. Sizing each other up, the two ready for battle (below).

chance in hell of winning!"

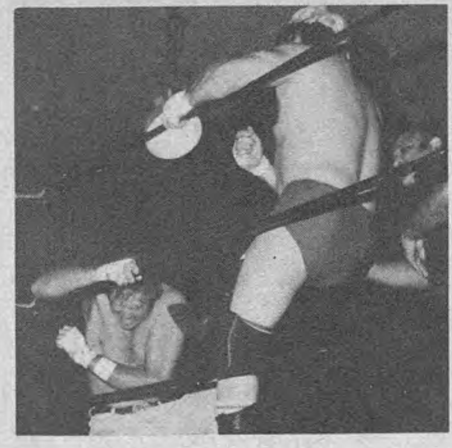
When Stevens walked into the arena 25 minutes later, most of the fans seemed to agree with him. The headgear would protect him from the most telling blows while leaving him free to recklessly throw punches. Even Lawman was worried at the sight of his covered opponent.

"Make him take it off!" Lawman shouted at the referee. "I can't battle a guy like that!"

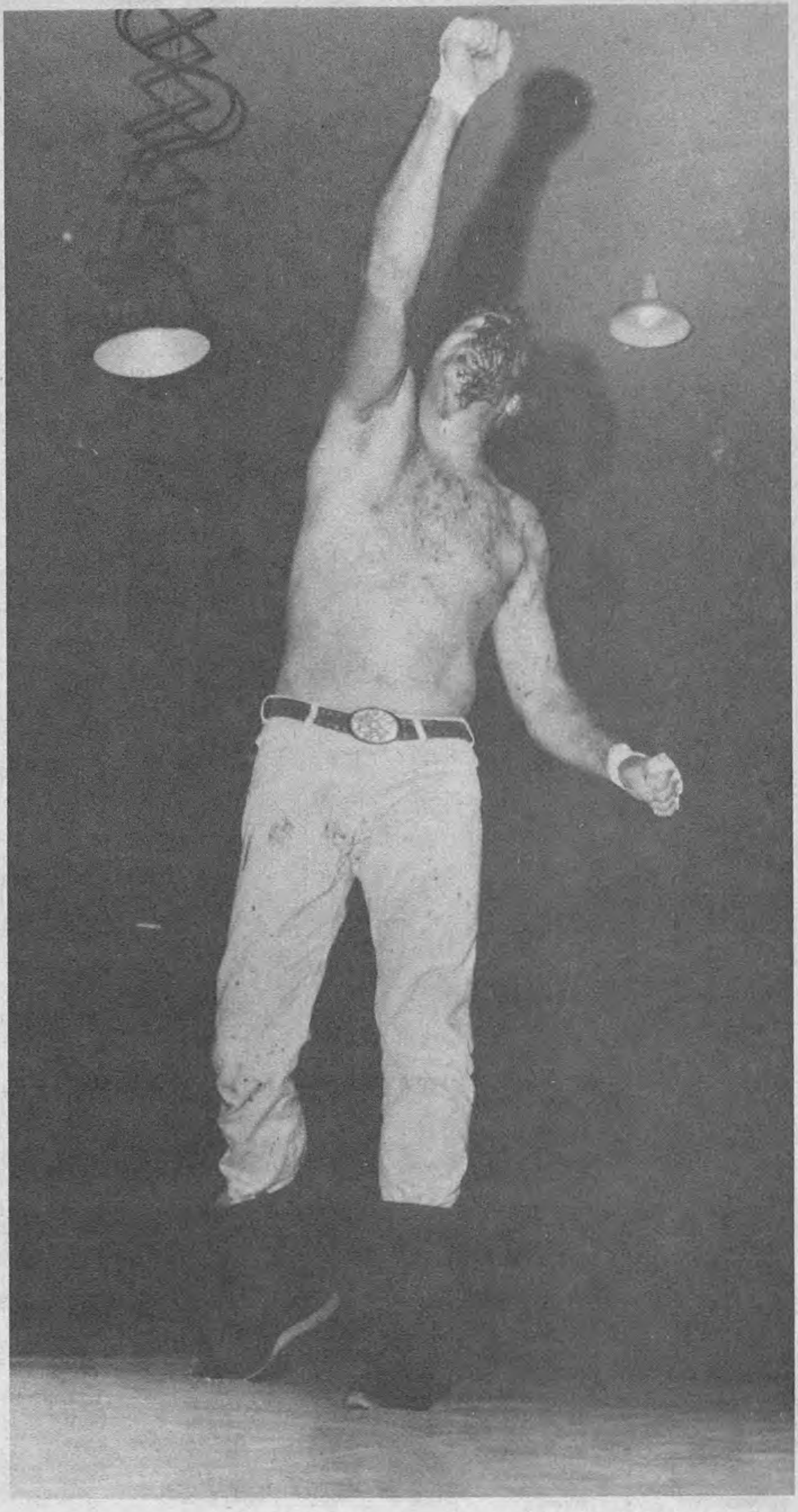
The referee agreed with the agitated grappler and instructed Stevens to remove the protective headpiece.

"I'll take it off," Ray said quietly, "if you can show me anywhere in the rulebook that says I can't wear it."

The official searched the rulebook and discovered what Ray had learned two weeks ago: There is no rule against a wrestler wearing headgear in a brass knuckles match. You can bet the referee told



Ray kicks the cornered Lawman (above). The tide will turn in Lawman's favor and he will end up the victorious (right) winning the brass knuckles championship.



the commission to make such a rule the next day! But for this match, Stevens was free to protect himself.

So the bell rang and Stevens rushed out. He was all over his hapless opponent before a minute had passed. Loaded blows rained upon Lawman's face, opening huge gashes from which blood poured down. The mat was soon stained with the injured grappler's blood.

The referee stepped between the two men. He wanted to stop the match—Lawman was bleeding too badly to continue. It was heartless to continue the massacre. However, Lawman begged the official to let the match continue. Shaking his head in wonder, the referee allowed the slaughter to keep going. But he kept a close eye on the battle, ready to stop it when Lawman's life was in danger.

No one can explain the reason for what happened next. Somehow, Lawman turned the battle around. He managed to avoid Stevens' blows while landing body shots of his own. Stevens, unable to punch his way out, grabbed Lawman around the neck and choked him. The referee quickly broke it up, informing Stevens he could show him in the rulebook where choking was not permitted.

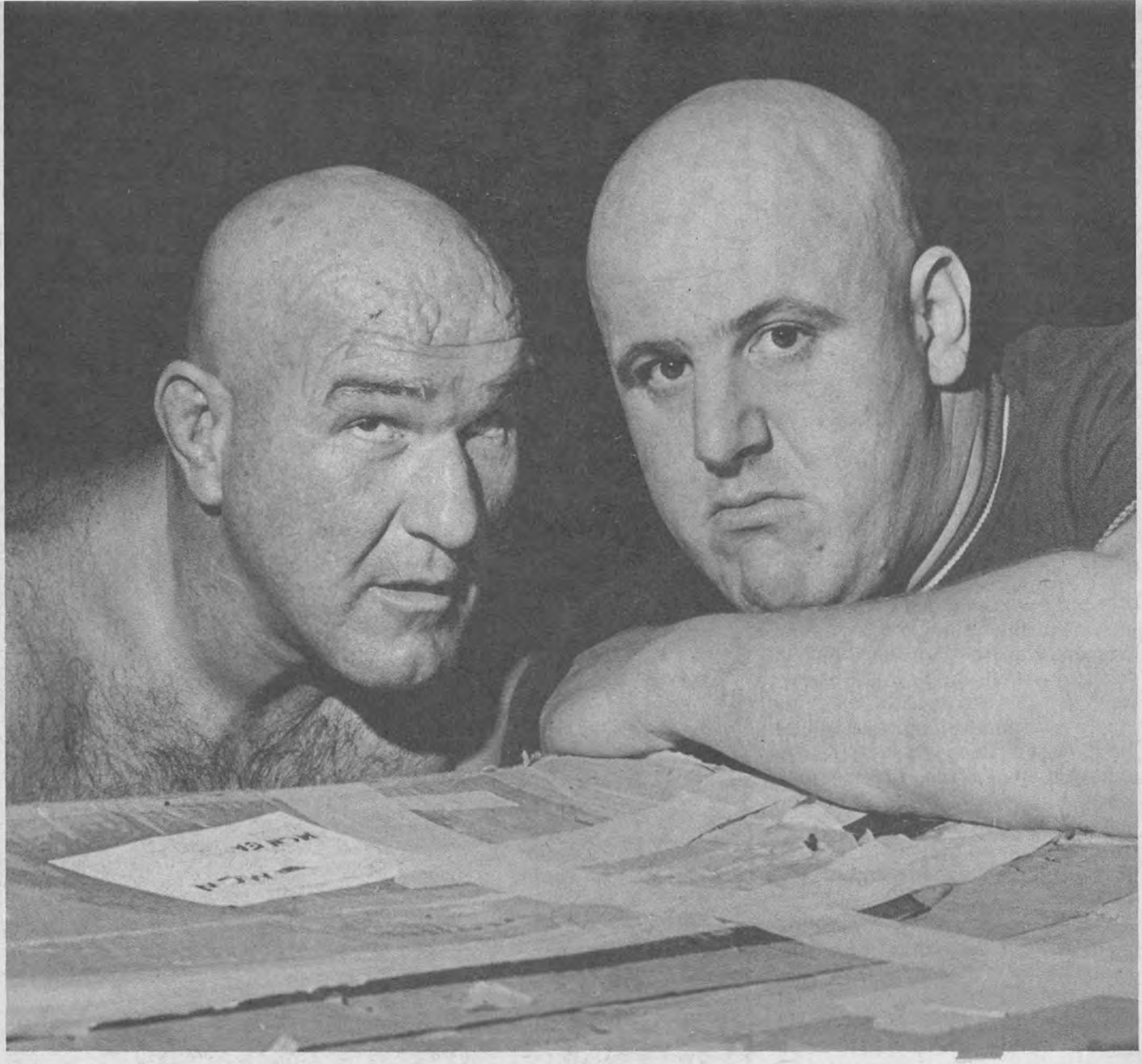
The two men stood apart for a second and then rushed together. Five body punches later, Stevens toppled over the ropes. Lawman went into the audience after him. Stevens lay stunned on the concrete while Lawman ripped off Ray's headgear. The bloody attacker then pounded his fists into the newly opened target. After 15 punches, a satisfied Lawman returned to the ring.

The referee started to count Stevens out. Ray struggled to return in time, but he couldn't make it. Lawman was awarded the victory and the brass knuckles championship.

Stevens finally did manage to get back in the ring and started to complain about being counted out.

"Want to see the rule which covers it?" the referee asked sarcastically.

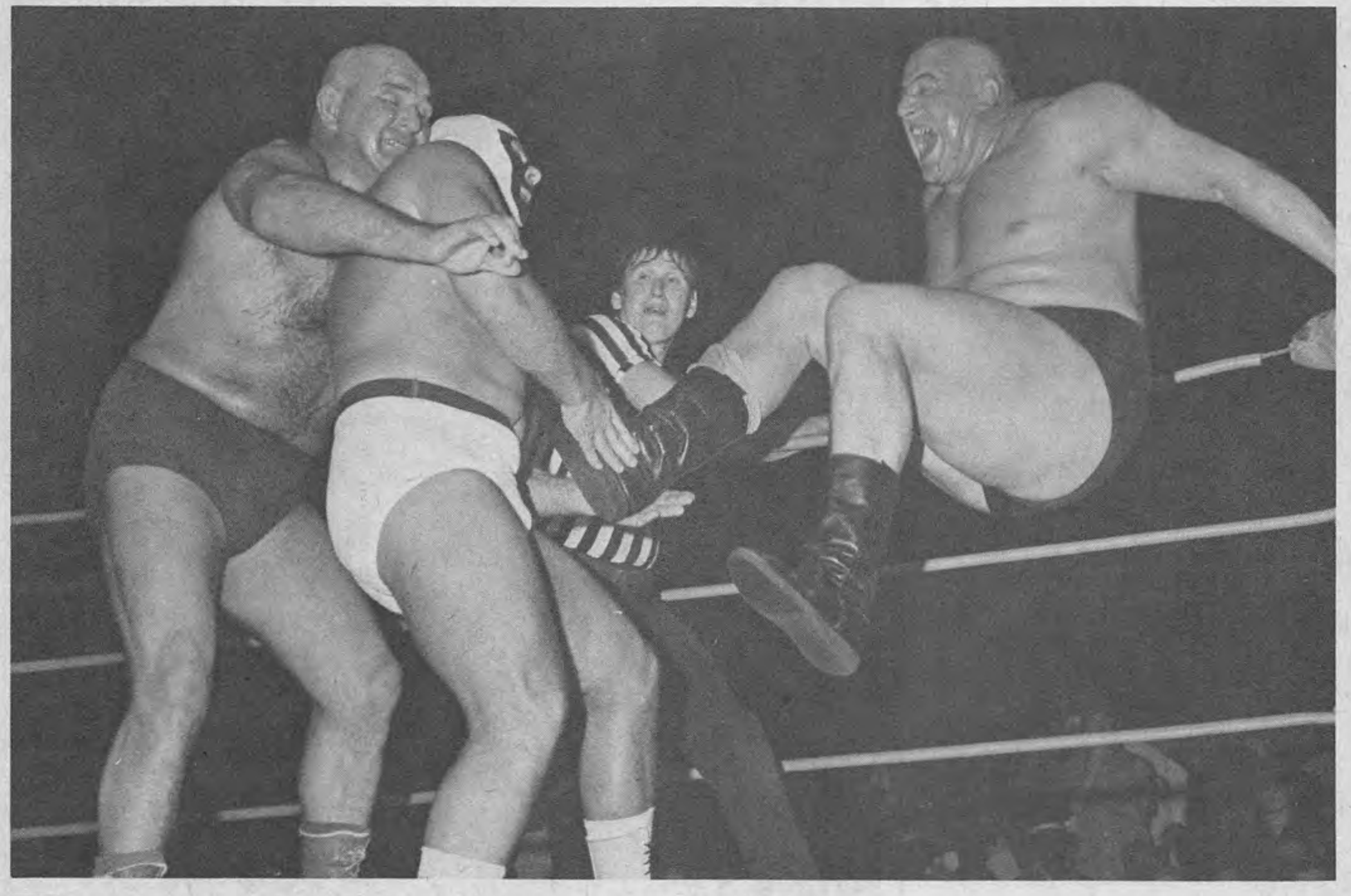
Silently, Stevens retreated to the dressing room. □



BERNARD AND VOLKOFF: TORTURE EXPERTS

PHOTOS BY GENE GORDON

Since the death of his former partner Skull Murphy, Brute Bernard has been searching the globe for that "perfect" partner. The one he found has exceeded his wildest wishes



THERE WAS A strange silence in the gymnasium as Brute Bernard watched his tag team partner, Nicolai Volkoff, working out. The silence was due to tears streaming uncontrollably down Bernard's face.

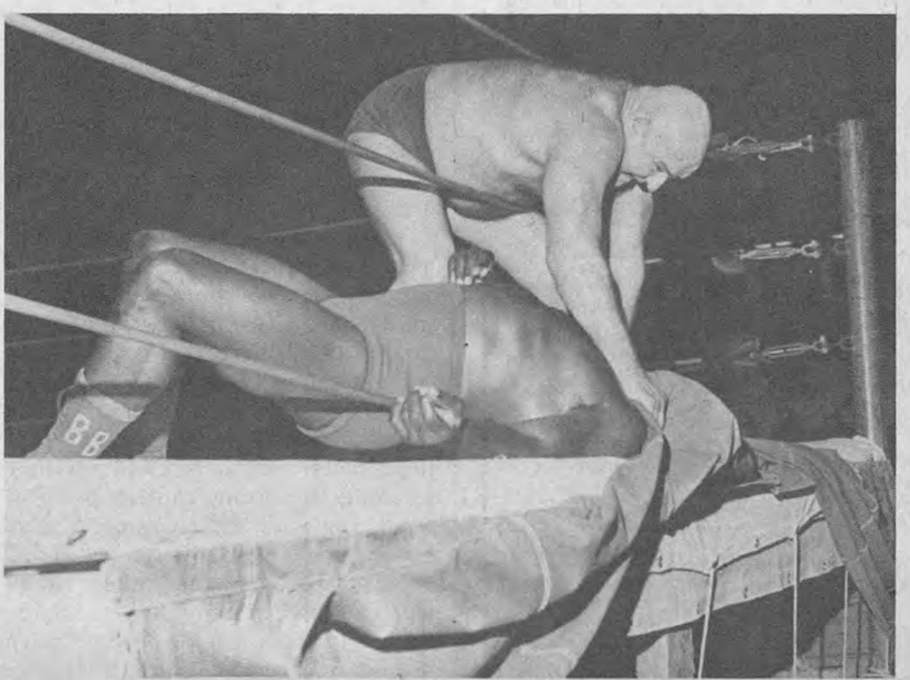
"He's just like Skull," Bernard murmured softly. "He's just like Skull. It's like the old days come back again."

Brute was recalling the days when he used to be the tag team partner of the notorious Skull Murphy. The two of them were feared throughout the world. The list of men crippled beyond recognition by these two would fill a book. Those years were the greatest of Bernard's life.

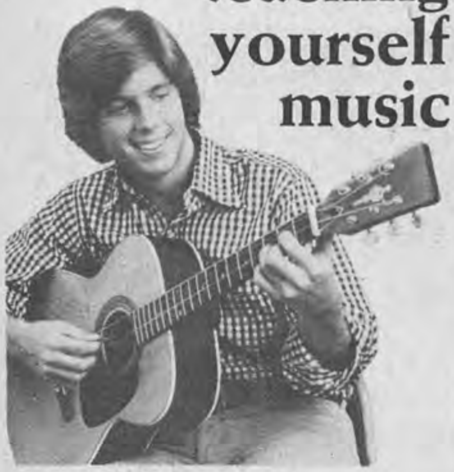
When Skull Murphy died years ago, a part of Bernard died with him. Brute was never as effective, never as deadly. Even though he would terrorize opponents, bloodying them with efficient savagery, he seemed to lack the reckless cruelty which made him so dangerous when he was Murphy's partner.

(Continued on page 62)

Extremely proficient in the fine art of doubleteaming, Volkoff sends his gigantic boots flying into Mr. Wrestling II's midsection (above) as Brute Bernard holds the helpless masked man. Showing what a torture expert he is in his own right, Bernard masks Bobo Brazil's head with the ring apron (below). Even the veteran Brazil admits, "Volkoff and Brute are ruthless animals!"



The secret of teaching yourself music



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RIC FLAIR

(Continued from Page 21)

What a rare treat for these ladies. I'm letting them go clothes shopping with me. We're on our way to an exclusive men's boutique. Of course we must stop and have a photo taken (above) so they will have the pleasure of having this moment forever recorded on film

is her eyes. They should look large, clear, and natural. A woman should spend days getting the right eye makeup for her; maybe she could even have professional help in that area.

Women shouldn't be afraid of eyeglasses either. It gives character to the face. It also stops squinting, the most unattractive thing a woman can do. I can't believe there are women trying to attract me who think I won't like them if they wear glasses. Do they think they look good squinting until their faces are so screwed up they resemble a rotting canteloupe? Put your eyeglasses back on girls. You've only your ugliness to lose.

Next, we come to clothes. Many women think the more they reveal, the more attractive they appear. That's nonsense, especially when what they reveal isn't all that great. I would much rather look at a girl in a pair of jeans and loosefitting workshirt than the most elaborate clothes in the world.

This is not to say clothes can't be attractive. The most important consideration, though, is for the woman to look comfortable in her clothes. They have to be a reflection of the woman herself. Flashy clothes are only attractive on a few women; other women should wear what suits them best. Always, no matter who the woman, her clothes should be understated. Clothes should tell the world you have class, not a lot of money to throw around.

Finally, and most important of all, is the personality. All the beauty in the world can't compensate for stupidity. A woman has to be intellectually challenging to be worth spending any

I just let the gals buy me an ice cream cone (above). Note how they must taste mine. It must be a real thrill. Posed with the world's greatest body (below) they are in awe of me.

time with. I want a woman to surprise me, take me to experiences I haven't imagined.

Nobody wants a woman to fawn over them (though I admit in my case it's difficult for women to refrain from worshipping). The girl has to have a life outside of our relationship, be someone in her own right. I'm the best and deserve no less than the best. If I wanted someone to be a toady to me, I'd hire a maid!

A lot of times women, seeing me in the arena or on the streets, rush up to me and say, "Ric, I'll do anything for you. I adore you."

I thank them very much, but leave them as soon as possible. Slavery is not only illegal, but it is not much fun.

I'm attracted to the woman who says, "I'll do wonderful things for you—if you will do the same."

And away we go! □

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YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from Page 10)

The personality of John Tolos is a strange one. Fans find it hard justifying his reasons for attacking his friends such as Greg Valentine. It appears that Tolos really is a two-faced person.

PUNISHMENT DUE

It's about time cowards who pretend to be wrestlers are punished. I'm referring to J.C. Dykes' stable and Ernie Ladd, who proved "Even Andre Can't Survive An Army" (THE WRESTLER/March 1976).

Those rats ganged up on Andre and almost crippled him. Just because they don't have the guts to take on Andre by themselves, they think it's all right to kill him in a group. Men like that should be driven from the sport.

Andre the Giant is too fine a wrestler to have to risk his life against unscrupulous cowards. Anyone who had anything to do with that attack should be kicked out of wrestling for good!

No wrestler should have to take that kind of beating, especially Andre the Giant.

PAULINE HESLLING
San Mateo, Calif.

THE REASON

The most interesting article I've read in years was "John Tolos! Search For Peace" (THE WRESTLER/March 1976). For years, I've hated the man for the many rotten tricks he's pulled; now I'm ashamed for it.

When I learned of the reasons behind Tolos' strange behavior, I could never again be angry with him. In fact, one could almost call him brave for doing what he's done.

Thanks for an article I'll never forget.

HARRIS KEATCH
Dallas, Tex.

NO LESS GREAT

There is no shame that "Verne Gagne Loses the AWA Title" (THE WRESTLER/March 1976).

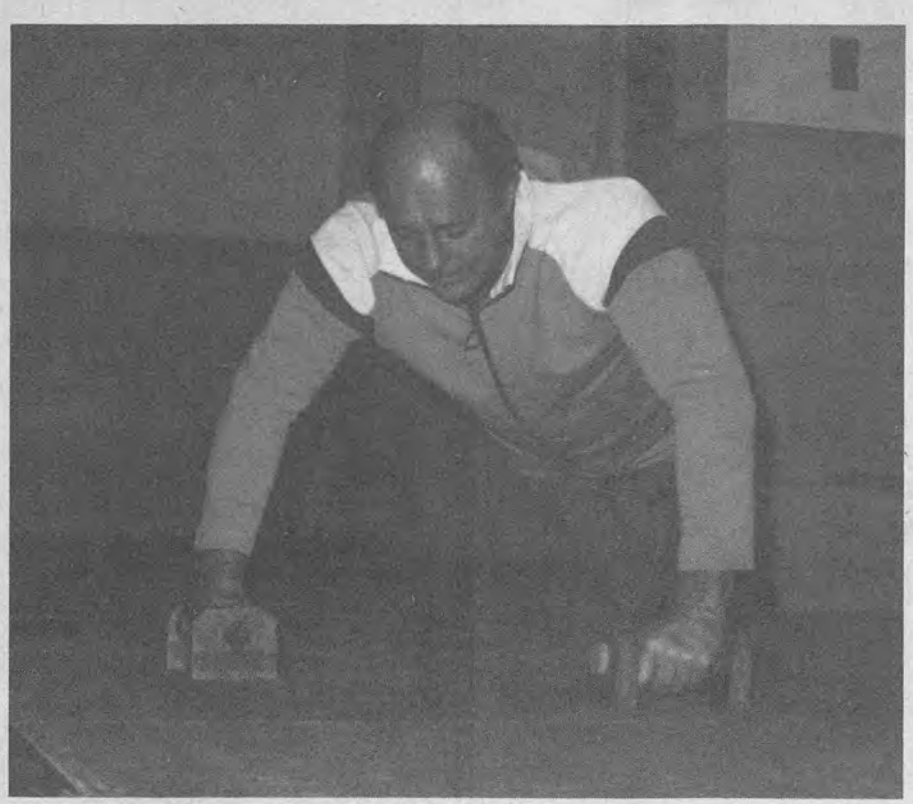
Verne Gagne has always been one of the greatest men to ever enter a wrestling arena. His championship reigns have been models of sportsmanship and dignity. His skills are still the most remarkable of anyone around.

I believe you'll soon be printing the story, "Verne Gagne Regains the AWA Title!"

WARD CLEAVER
Green Bay, Wisc.

APPRECIATIVE FAN

I want to thank you for the greatest article I've ever read, "The Magnificent Battle of the Champions" (THE WRESTLER/March 1976). Magnificent is sure the right word.



Verne Gagne trains day after day in the gym hoping to find the correct method to win the American Wrestling Association title back from Nick Bockwinkle. So far, all Verne's efforts have failed. "I won't rest until I get that belt back," vows the former champ.

The match between greats like Antonio Inoki and Lou Thesz had to be great. However, it didn't have to be as great as it was! These two scientific mat stars showed what wrestling is all about. If only the animals who think winning is everything could learn a lesson from these athletes, wrestling would be, without doubt, the greatest sport in the world!

Let's have more articles on scientific stars at their best!

JEROME SAZWICZI
Tucson, Ariz.

VIOLENT JERRY

After reading "The Violent World of Jerry Lawler" (THE WRESTLER/ March 1976), I can't believe that man is allowed to participate in wrestling!

What does a man like Lawler have to do with a sport? All he cares about is winning—at any cost. He should be a soldier, not a professional athlete. He's a disgrace to every principle professional athletes believe in!

Someday, the wrestling commissioners will wake up to their responsibility to the sport. Let's hope it's not too late!

WARREN COOLIDGE
Nantucket, R.I. □

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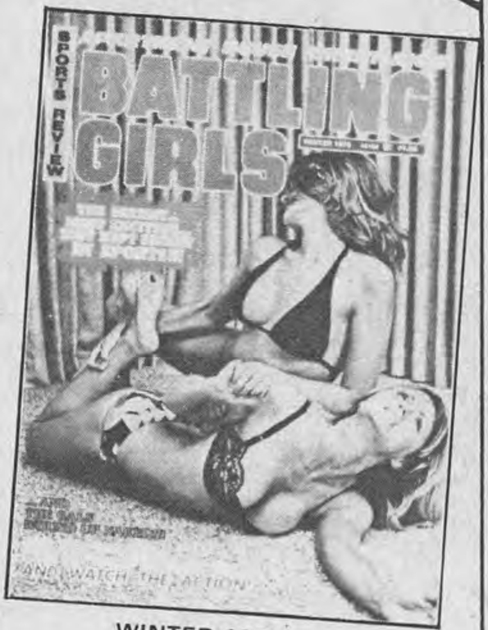

WINTER 1975

SPRING 1976

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NOTE: Because some material might be of a mature nature, parental approval for those under 18 is recommended.

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

(Continued from Page 12)

Baron's tactic. He managed to grab the object and use it on Von Raschke. Then Pampero shoved the Baron out of the ring, and refused to let him back in.

When the dust finally settled on the action, Firpo had emerged as the winner because he had kept the Baron out of the ring long enough for the count.

In a semi-final match, Larry Hennig (filling in for an ailing Greg Gagne) and Jim Brunzell battled

Von Raschke scurries for cover as Firpo continues to attack him with vicious maneuvers.

Bobby Heenan and Bobby Duncum. Hennig and Brunzell captured the first fall after a shot to the stomach by Jim floored Heenan. The second fall went the opposite way, with Duncum bringing Brunzell to his knees after smashing a table over Jim's head. Then Nick Bockwinkle interferred for Heenan, enabling that team to win the match.

In other action, Kim Duk took very little time to overcome Bull Bullinski in their match . . . Big Joe LeDuc needed only 8:46 to win over Handsome Jimmy Valiant . . . Bob Backlund and Kosrow Vaziri battled to a draw after 20 minutes of exciting action.

CALIFORNIA REPORT
By Larry Barnhizer

The State capital of Sacramento was the scene of some furious

Don Muraco, no longer a fan favorite, won a controversial match against The Alaskan.

action when Don Muraco took on a very tough challenger—The Alaskan.

The match began with The Alaskan kicking Muraco, slugging him, and finally shoving Don against the ropes. Then he started punishing Don with painful arm and wrist locks. By this point, the capacity crowd was wild with excitement.

The Alaskan, thrilled to hear the cheers of the fans, went a little wild. He began to choke Don. Then he clamped a powerful headlock on Muraco. Rather than wait around to be finished off by his opponent, Don slipped out of the hold and jumped over the ropes. He yelled to the referee to keep The Alaskan away from him while he climbed back into the ring.

When he finally climbed over the ropes, he grabbed the Alaskan and started ripping at his eyes. Then Don delivered a powerful punch to the stomach, and The Alaskan went crashing to the canvas. Muraco began to kick his foe's prone body. Then he grabbed one of The Alaskan's legs, and started to twist it slowly, getting some sort of glee out of watching his opponent suffer in the process. Finally, Don was proclaimed the winner of the match.

In another action-filled match in Sacramento, Mr. Fuji and his partner, Mr. Saito, stopped Jerry Monti and Frank Hester. It was a fast-paced battle no side seemed able to win until just a few seconds before the time limit. □

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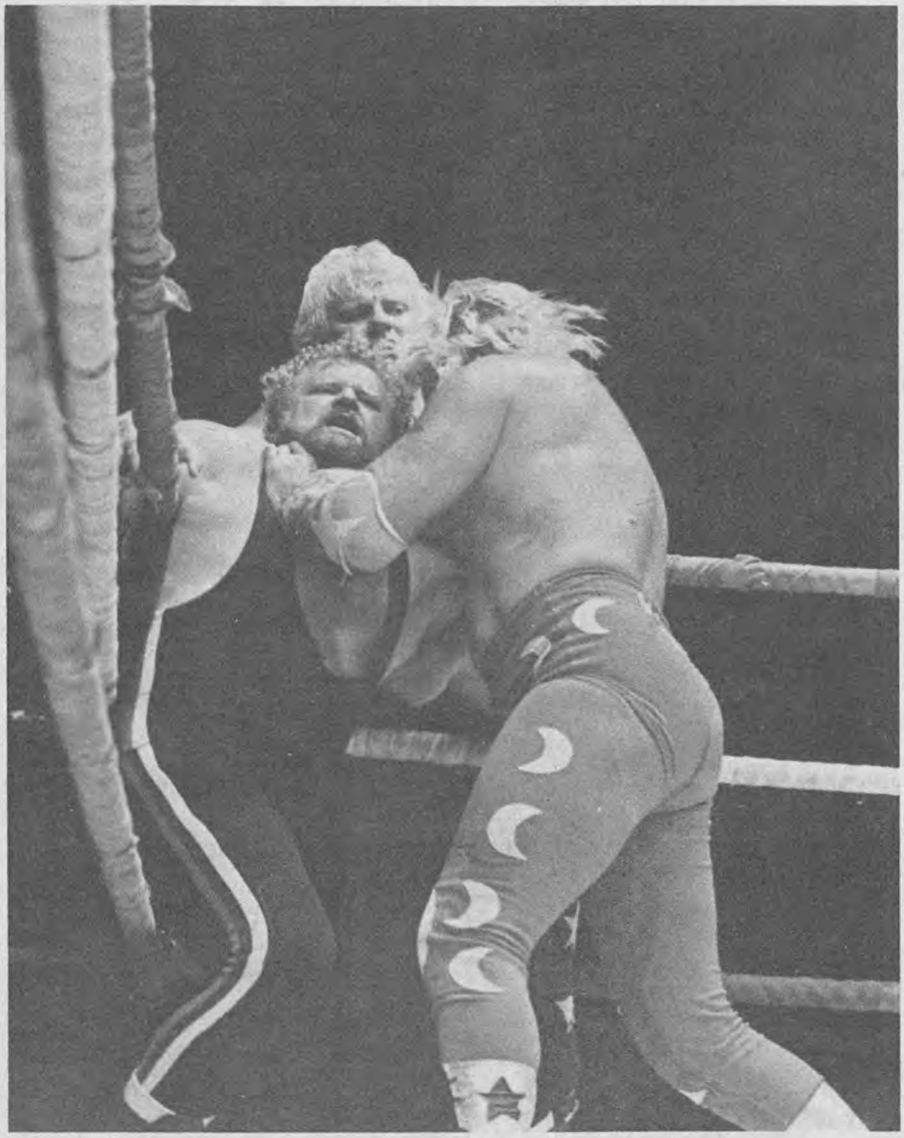
LARRY HENNIG SNEERS:

(Continued from Page 33)



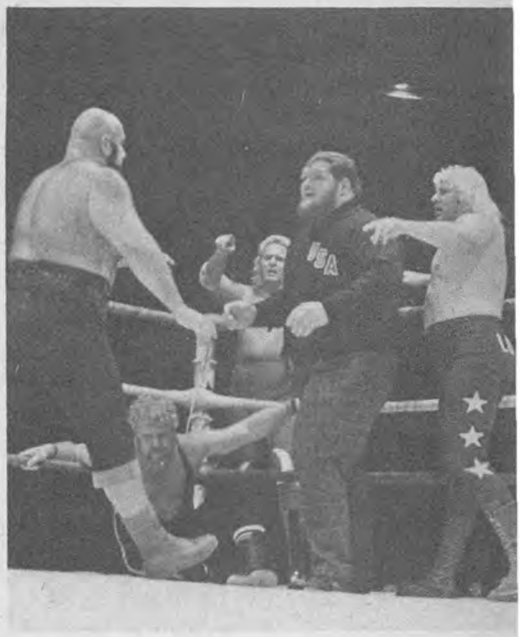
Hennig's claim doesn't seem to be holding water as he's given a rough doubleteaming treatment (above and below) by Jim and John, experts at such tactics.

massacres, he knows only too well what may happen.

There is only one psychological defense for this fear: The wrestler must convince himself his new enemies are harmless. After his first few matches, especially if he does well, he will loudly deride his foes' skills. He will make absurd claims. He will devise impossible plans.

He will be very certain about his future plans. At this stage in a man's career, he worries about what will become of him. After his first success, he latches on to this and uses it to prove he can make it in his next matches. Once he thinks he can tell what will happen to him, he becomes the happiest person on earth.

Joe LeDuc has watched this process many times. Like most veterans, he fails to take it seriously. He knew the match against the Valiants had been a



Tag team partner Joe Leduc is on his way to helping Hennig escape the doubleteaming of Jim and John (above). Special referee Chris Taylor steps in to send Joe to his corner.

bruising one. Hennig and LeDuc had earned every advantage with sweat and agony. The match ended with the Valiants being disqualified. If Chris Taylor hadn't been the special referee, there would have been a bloody brawl.

LeDuc didn't mention how Taylor, a great wrestler in his own right, had kept the match honest. Hennig would not have listened. All he cared about was how well he did against men he feared would destroy him.

The next day, LeDuc admitted, "Larry will calm down in a few weeks and realize it hadn't been that easy against the Valiants. And he'll also realize we have a long way to go before becoming a championship tag team—one that can consistently defend a title.

"Larry will be able to go on to other matches without this fear worrying him. Hell, I've seen it hundreds of times; I'll probably see it hundreds more. For now, I might as well let him enjoy thinking he can beat the Valiants with his hands tied behind his back." Joe's smile faded as he concluded, "That fantasy won't last long."

LeDuc had already heard the Valiants were enraged by Hennig's statements. They swore bloody revenge, something at which they have no equals. Joe knew Larry Hennig had his work cut out for him. The Valiants would now do everything in their awesome power to destroy Larry Hennig. □

YOU ASKED US

(Continued from Page 18)

Handsome Jimmy Valiant wants everyone to know that when you see him wrestle you are witnessing a very classic wrestler.

had," notes Peter. Johnson also admires Peter's tag team capabilities, saying, "Of all the partners I've teamed with, Peter is one of the greatest."

Q: What match does Jim Valiant call his greatest?—Dave Booth, Agincourt, Ontario

A: "I'd say the matches in which I defeated Sammartino, Terry Funk, Verne Gagne and some other preliminary guys were pretty good," says "Handsome" Jim. "Just keep in mind that every time you see me wrestle, even against losers like the guys I just mentioned, you're witnessing true greatness—me!"

Q: Does John Tolos consider himself a "Dr. Jekyl and Mister Hyde?"—I mean, does he think he is two faced?—Dennis D'Abbraccio, Queens, New York

A: "Of course not," says Tolos. "I'm just a nice guy who's loved by the fans. I'm easy to get along with—a pleasure to be with. Any stories about me being two faced are just plain lies!"

Q: Why doesn't Abdullah Farouk bring The Sheik to the WWWF to defeat Sammatino?—Clinton Freeman, New York City, New York

A: "Bruno Sammartino sees to it the promoters will not let my Sheik wrestle him," Farouk claims. "But one day it will happen. We will beat Sammartino and rule the WWWF!" □

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JOYCE GRABLE

(Continued from Page 31)

just seen her successor.

There are few athletes radiating this kind of greatness. Many of the greatest only blossom after years of failure and heartbreak. You can count the wrestlers who were destined for greatness in their first match on the fingers of two hands. As a consequence, the pressure placed on Grable to be outstanding were incredible.

No matter what Joyce did, she was always in the wrestling spotlight. Not only were fans fascinated by the pretty blonde, but her colleagues watched her every move. As a foe to be reckoned with, Joyce's maneuvers were discussed and analyzed by those who might face her. Any mistakes she made or losses she suffered were cause for general celebration by her enemies. Scrutiny of this type can be devastating for anyone. For a young girl it can be a living hell.

There can be no doubt this hurt her. Expecting too much too soon,

Against vicious opponents like Paula Kaye (above) and Donna Christenello (below), Joyce has shown why she's one of the top gal grapplers in the world today.

Joyce faced the toughest competition imaginable. No young girl should be expected to combat these ruthless veterans. However, being marked as a future champion, people expected Joyce to easily conquer all coming near her. It was

Christenello tries to squirm out of a wristlock, but Joyce keeps the hold locked tightly so Donna finds it impossible to escape.

a trial no one should have had to endure.

Joyce never really reached her potential until she teamed with the wily Vicki Williams, one of the best women grapplers in the sport's history.

"Teaming with Vicki," Joyce flatly declares, "was the greatest thing ever to happen to me. I was being pushed by other people and my own ambition; I needed someone to slow me down. Teaming with Vicki was a learning experience, one I needed very badly.

"I never really had time to be reckless or make mistakes. People expected too much of me. So did I. Teaming with Vickie allowed me to experiment, perfecting new methods. I always knew Vicki was there to make up for my mistakes. She's so skillful I really had no worries about us winning at all.

"If I do become champin—and I believe I will—I'll owe it all to Vicki."

When the two were no longer regular tag team partners, one could see an appreciable difference in Joyce's ability. Once again, the talk of a future championship started. However, Joyce then grew more reckless, less successful and more exciting. Fans flocked to see her, but the experts stopped talking about a title. All this happened within a period of three months.

Joyce isn't bothered by the disappointment of experts. She is

(Continued on page 56)

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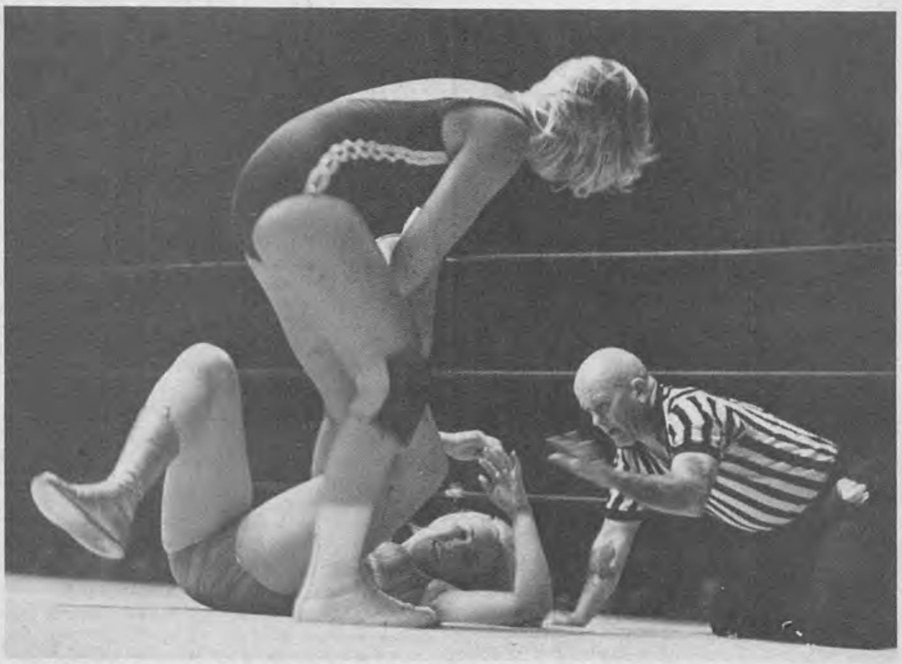
JOYCE GRABLE

(Continued from Page 55)

Christenello learns about the power in Joyce Grable's legs when Joyce has her in a leg scissor (above). Vivian Vachon takes Joyce down to the canvas (below) with a stepover toehold. Joyce kicked out and then floored Vivian with a series of flying dropkicks. Many experts predict Joyce may win the world title in a few years.



confident this is the right course for her to take while striving for the sport's biggest prize.

"Experts are lousy at predicting," Joyce says with a smile. "They are only good at telling you what has already happened. They were saying I could become champion when I didn't take any chances and did everything by the book. They

enjoy this sort of thing—the textbook wrestler. I listened to them, figuring they knew what was best for me. I couldn't have been more wrong!

"They don't want a person to grow. They figure if you execute perfectly you can win. They don't realize that makes a wrestler predictable. And that is worse than death for a professional athlete!

"Vicki taught me to take chances. When I was with her I had the chance to develop different techniques. When we decided to follow separate paths, experts were amazed at how vastly I improved. They could not see the many mistakes I suffered learning these new maneuvers, Vicki covered my mistakes that well. But when I tried new moves, ones still needing to be perfected, I made mistakes with no one there to cover for me. It disturbed the experts, those mistakes. They didn't realize it is all part of the process. The mistakes I'm making now will get me the championship. I know it!"

Joyce Grable is surer of herself than ever before. The pretty blonde is more determined than ever to become champion. She is also more determined than ever to do it her own way! □

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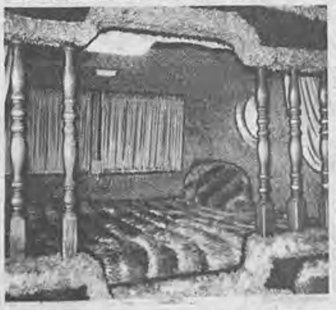

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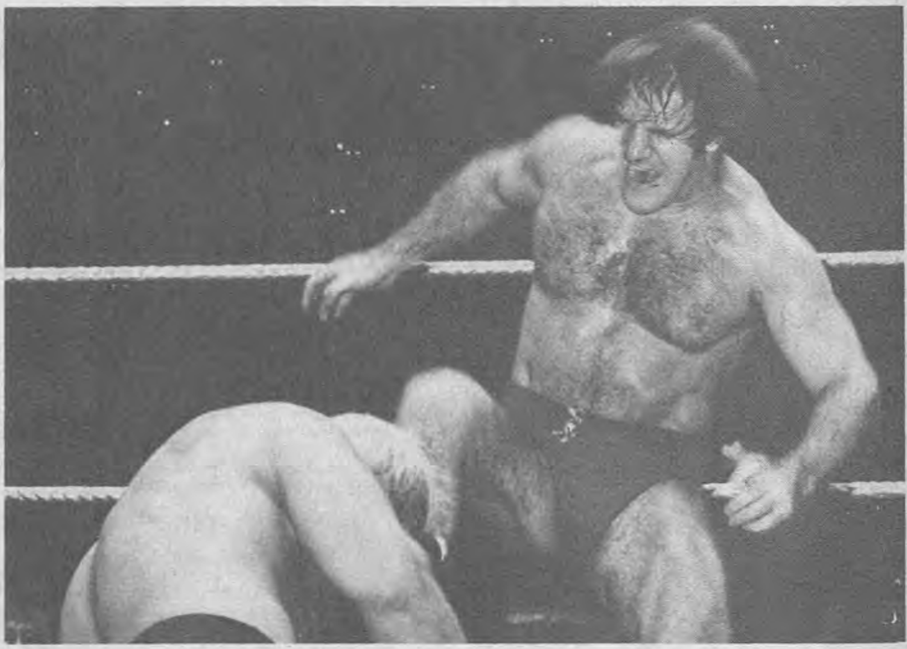
Superstar Graham

(Continued from Page 40)



Sammartino kicks the cut head of Graham (above). Superstar is dazed and in just a few moments the referee will step in and call a halt to the match. The game Graham never did quit though (below). He gave it all he had until the match was stopped.

came face to face, Graham shouted, "Come on Mister Big Shot. Let's see how strong you really are."

Graham invited Bruno to engage in a test of strength. He put out his long arms. Bruno and Graham locked fingers. Instead of engaging in a strength contest, Graham kicked Bruno low. The champion crumpled to the mat.

That didn't last too long. The enraged Sammartino quickly recovered and began a roughhouse war against Superstar. Bruno kicked, punched and used every maneuver imaginable to show Graham he could be equally vicious.

As the battle wore on, Bruno began battering Graham's head on the steel ringpost. Graham collapsed and rolled out of the ring. When he tried to return, Bruno kicked him repeatedly, opening a cut on Graham's forehead.

The referee ordered Bruno to step back and let his opponent back into the ring. When Superstar returned,

Graham can't believe the referee is stopping the match. He tries arguing with him to let it go on.

Bruno began punching the cut area. Again and again Sammartino smashed Graham. The blood now completely masked Graham's face.

The referee stepped in and halted Bruno from doing any more damage, for the moment. He wanted to examine the cut. After doing so, he stopped the match. Graham was bleeding too profusely to continue.

"NO!" protested Superstar. "Don't stop it. I'm okay. I've been cut worse shaving!"

But the referee refused to let the match go on. Sammartino was the victor.

"DAMMIT!" exclaimed Graham once he was back in the dressing room while the doctor tried to examine the cut. "Get away!" Superstar demanded. "I'm not hurt. I don't need a damn doctor!"

But the State Athletic Commission officials demanded Graham allow the physican to do his job. He did and it cost Graham the embarrassment of several stitches.

Adding insult to injury for Graham, it was announced he would not be the next contender for a title shot at Madison Square Garden. The World Wide Wrestling Federation deemed Ernie Ladd worthy of the next shot.

"I don't know why they did that!" The Wizard exclaimed. "Ernie Ladd is a great wrestler, but due to the questionable decision of the first match and the obvious questionable decision in this match, the promoters must pull Ladd out of the match and put Superstar back in that spot! I demand this and I'll take my case to court if necessary!"

At this time, it is not known if Wizard's case will even get that far. As for Bruno, he seems satisfied. He feels he beat Graham at his own rough-house game. And that is something not too many people can do! □

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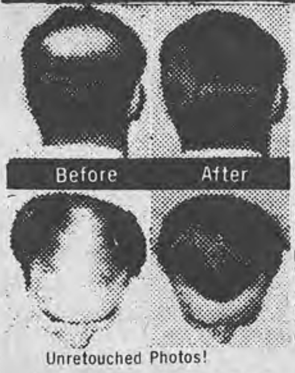

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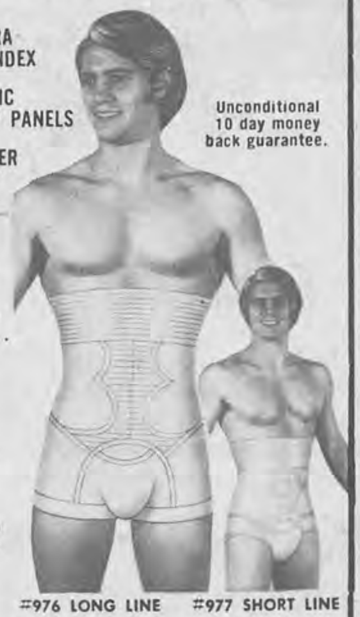

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GIVE ...HEART FUND

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING, BABY

(Continued from Page 8)

Japanese judo expert Mr. Fugi (above) is experiencing the best days of his career. He's a top man in the San Francisco area. Captain Lou Albano (below) is protesting Ivan Koloff's most recent match against Sammartino.

from defeat—same as me. I'll prove the point by regaining the NWA title from that bum Terry Funk."

Ivan Koloff and manager Lou Albano bitter about the decision in Ivan's recent New York clash against WWWF champion Bruno Sammartino. The match, at Nassau Coliseum, drew a lot of criticism from fans as well.

"Here's the scoop," Albano said. "Daddy, when Sammartino wrestled Superstar Billy Graham and was thrown out of the ring, he got ten seconds to return to action. He didn't make it back in time and the spaghetti bender was counted out.

"The next day the World Wide Wrestling Federation said Sammartino should have been allowed twenty seconds. They said the referee was wrong, daddy. So in this match at Nassau, Sammartino threw Ivan out to the ring and Ivan was only given a ten second count. It's not fair! It's obvious the World Wide Wrestling Federation is protecting it's precious champion!"

We'll dig up some more details and hope to bring you a feature story concerning the controversial count-out situation.

"Pistol" Pete Sanchez heading toward the Mid-Atlantic areas . . . Fabulous Moolah still warding off the attacks of top challengers . . . Mad Dog Vachon and Killer Brooks on the verge of patching up their feud . . . Pete Reeves, a WWWF rookie, recovered from injuries sustained in an auto accident and is back at the mat wars again . . . Greg Valentine slated to go on another Japanese tour . . . Scandor Akbar anxious for a shot at Bobo Brazil's WWWF United States belt . . . Bull Bullinski back in AWA territory . . . Wrestling experts calling Superstar Graham and Ivan Koloff "wrestling's most deadly duo." The pair has a lot of experience in tag team wrestling because they teamed before in the AWA.

Since winning the San Francisco battle royal, Mr. Fugi has gone onto his biggest winning streak since his career began. He just upset Pat Patterson for a version of the United States title.

"It is not luck," notes the judo expert. "Many years of skill went into making me what I have become. Next I will go on to win the world championship. Mr. Fugi is now number one. No wrestler can defeat Mr. Fugi. I will go down in history as being the greatest Japanese wrestler ever to grace America."

Fugi, a regular tag team partner of Professor Toru Tanaka, adds, "My tag team days are behind me—at least for the time being. I excel as a single wrestler. Tag teams come second from now on."

And that's what's happening, baby! □

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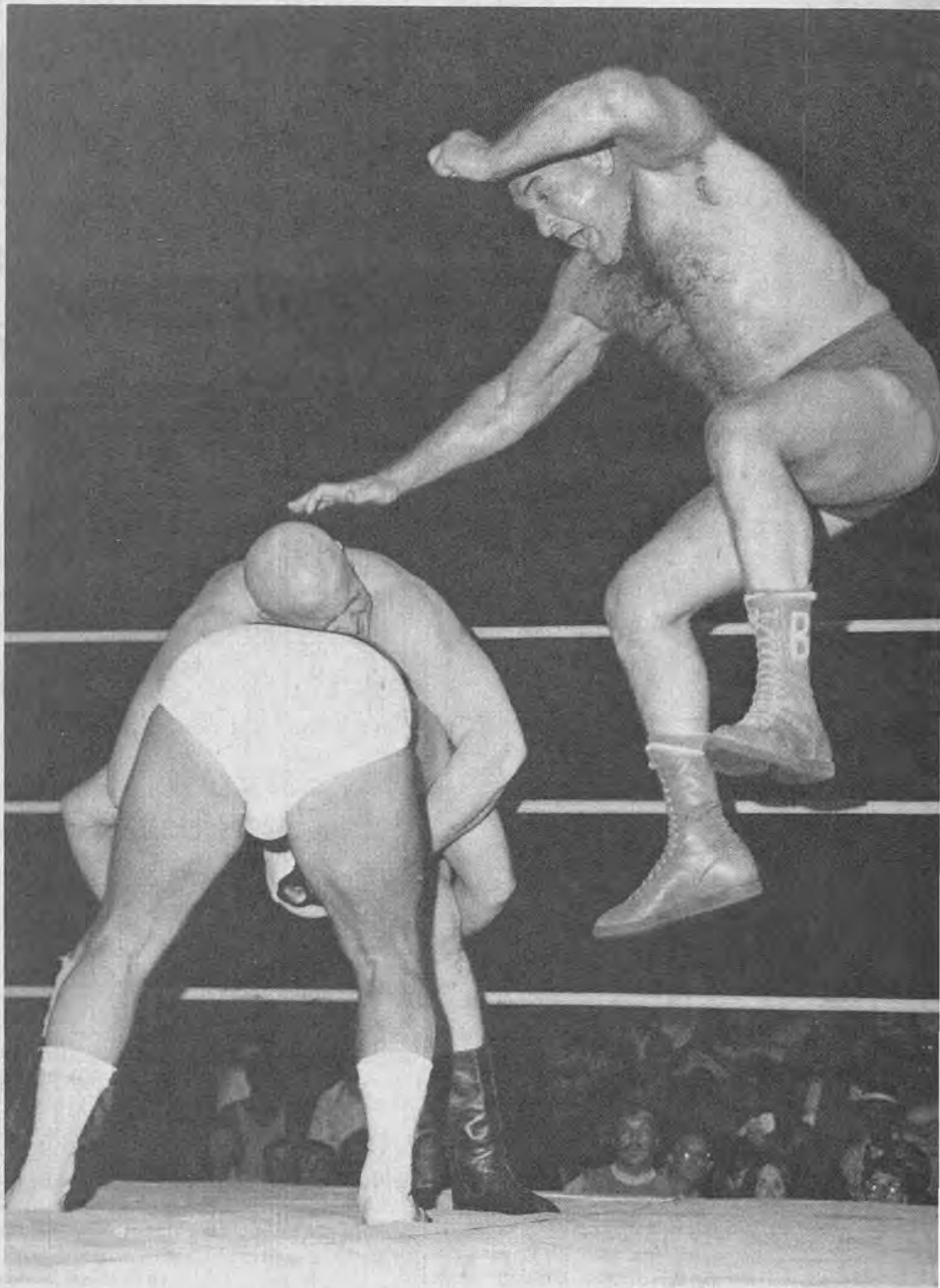
BERNARD AND VOLKOFF

(Continued from Page 45)



As Volkoff slaughters Mr. Wrestling II with a choke hold, Bernard adds his two cents as he's about to come down on the masked man's back with a pulverizing elbow smash. Since teaming, Bernard and his Siberian partner have made mincemeat out of all opponents. They claim they find extreme pleasure in crippling adversaries.

Naturally, most wrestlers were delighted in the slight lessening of Bernard's savagery.

That extra bit of cruelty, the honing of this killer instinct, lay dormant until Bernard could find a tag team partner to duplicate Murphy's skills. He believes he found that man in Volkoff. Brute's joy, which meant danger for every other man in wrestling, was written all over his face as he watched Nicolai.

Together, the two men are cutting a swath of bloodshed and maiming throughout the South. No one facing them escapes without some injury. With every match, they

become more cruel and more dangerous. It can only be a matter of months before they end an opponent's career. No one dares predict whether or not they will someday end a man's life.

Bernard has thrown himself wholeheartedly into the partnership. The pair has gone through two managers. Now they're on their own. Bernard controls everything for the team: he signs contracts, schedules training, even selects their diet. Brute spends hours secluded in a room, devising new strategies and maneuvers. He lives and breathes for this new tag team.

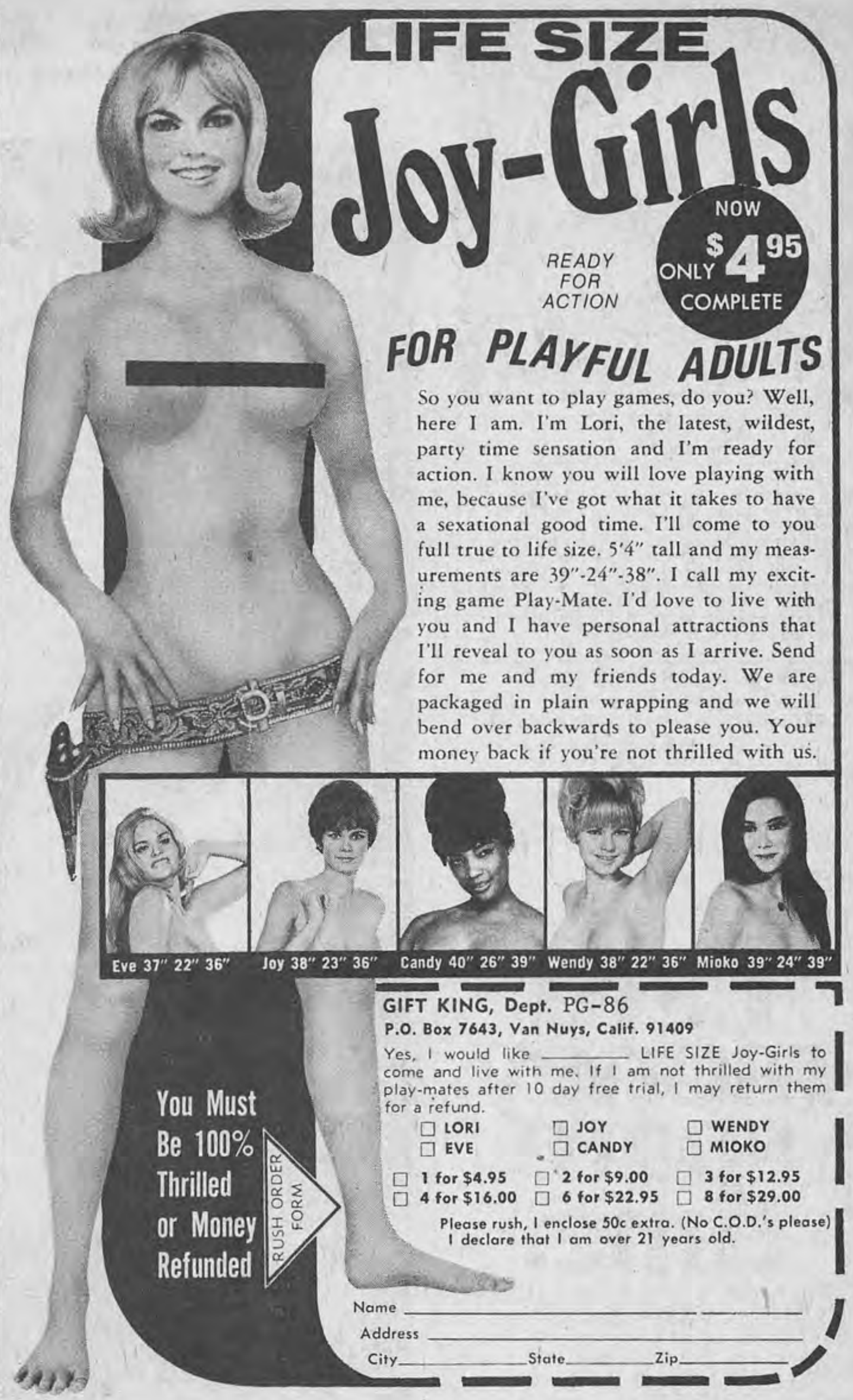
Observers have compared Bernard to a mother hen as he watches over his Russian partner.

A formal portrait of Bernard and his first steady tag team partner, the late Skull Murphy. Together they went on to win the world tag team championship. Now Brute hopes to do the same feat with the huge Volkoff.

Volkoff speaks no English, so his only sense of the world comes through Bernard. Brute makes sure he knows what is happening to Volkoff 24 hours a day. Nicolai speaks to no one without his partner's permission.

Veterans recall it used to be the opposite when Bernard teamed with Skull Murphy. Skull was the brains behind the pair while Bernard followed his instructions brilliantly if brutally.

(Continued on page 64)



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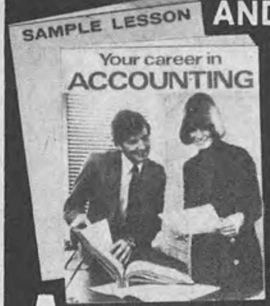

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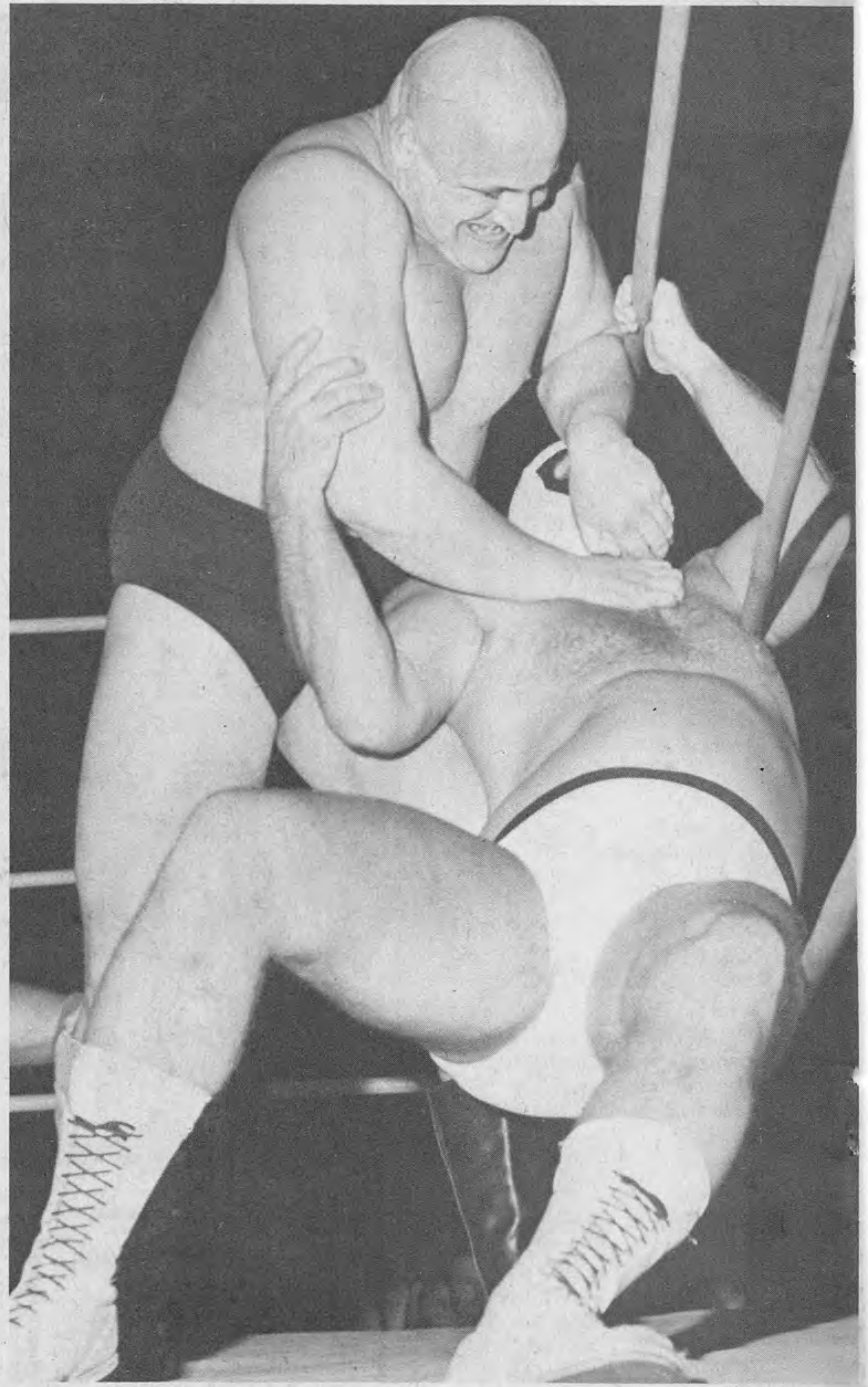
BERNARD AND VOLKOFF

(Continued from Page 63)



Using the ropes for leverage, Volkoff chokes Mr. Wrestling II and Brute Bernard is entering the ring to help out. The duo has been disqualified many times and they admit they don't give a damn. "If we can ruin our opponent's careers," snarls Brute, "we're happy.

Volkoff's huge boot is about to connect with Bob Orton Jr.'s mid-section. Volkoff's stomp is one of the most vicious in wrestling.

Bernard may be a maniac, but there lies method behind his madness. Every cruel trick he knows has been practiced over and over again. He works himself mercilessly, never satisfied and always striving to improve.

Bernard has no problem making Volkoff work, however, Nicolai willingly allows himself to be guided and driven. The Russian demands work even after Bernard has had enough! Neither man could be happier.

As for other wrestlers and the fans, they couldn't be angrier. Again and again, these two men defy every convention and break every rule. Their path is strewn with the blood and wounded limbs of opponents. They have managed a ruthless victory over almost every respected tag team in the South. Many fans are despairing of ever seeing them driven out of the area. Bernard's public statements do little to make them happier.

"We're going to rule the world!" he screams while Nicolai stands by contentedly. "Not since I teamed with the great Skull Murphy has a tag team approached this greatness. I'm invincible with Volkoff at my side.

"We hereby accept all challenges. We hereby promise to get our hands on every belt around. There's nothing that can stop us. We're going to make our foes grovel at our feet.

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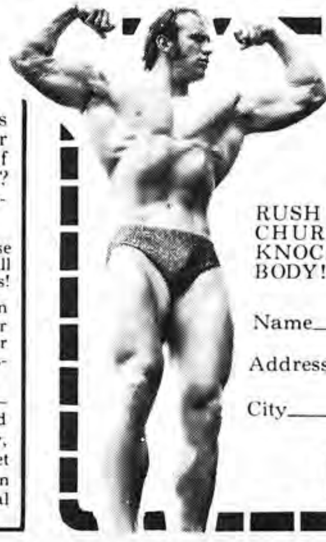

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